

GAME PREVIEW

Fresno State Bulldogs

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Carolyn Flynn

NU VOLLEYBALL

Alicia Ostrander

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

AMEER ESCAPES COWBOYS' LASSO

Abdullah's 58-yard TD
grab allows Huskers
to defeat McNeese State



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ILLUSTRATED

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Editor, General Manager: **DARREN IVY**
darrenivy@huskersillustrated.com

Photographer: **JOE MIXAN**

Photographer: **JIM RASH**

Photographer: **MITCH OTTO**

Recruiting Writer: **MIKE SCHAEFER**

Beat Writer: **MICHAEL BRUNTZ**

Beat Writer: **LANNY HOLSTEIN**

Contributing Writer: **DOUG GRIFFITHS**

Contributing Writer: **BRIAN ROSENTHAL**

Contributing Writer: **BOB HAMAR**

Contributing Writer: **TERRY DOUGLASS**

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The next Huskers Illustrated Edition, recapping the McNeese State game and previewing the Fresno State game, will mail on Monday, Sept. 8.

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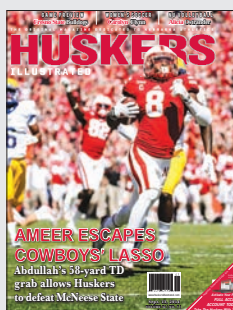
BY LANNY HOLSTEIN & DARREN IVY

Nebraska's offensive line depth is one of the strengths of the unit this season.

2014 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
AUG. 30	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 55-7
SEPT. 6	MCNEESE STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00 A.M.	W, 31-24
SEPT. 13	@FRESNO STATE	FRESNO, CALIF.	9:30P.M.	CBSSN
SEPT. 20	MIAMI	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7:00 P.M.	ABC/ESPN
SEPT. 27	ILLINOIS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	8:00P.M.	BTN
OCT. 4	@MICHIGAN STATE	EAST LANSING, MICH.	7:00P.M.	ESPN/ABC
OCT. 18	@NORTHWESTERN	EVANSTON, ILL.	6:30P.M.	BTN
OCT. 25	RUTGERS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBD
NOV. 1	PURDUE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBD
NOV. 15	@WISCONSIN	MADISON, WIS.	TBA	TBD
NOV. 22	MINNESOTA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBD
NOV. 28	@IOWA	IOWA CITY, IA	TBA	TBD
DEC. 6	@BIG TEN TITLE GAME	INDIANAPOLIS, IND.	7P.M.	FOX

ALL GAMES ARE CST



ON THE COVER

Senior Ameer Abdullah outruns the McNeese State defense to the endzone on his game-winning 58-yard touchdown catch and run with 20 seconds left to preserve the 31-24 victory. Abdullah was held to 54 yards rushing, but had three catches for 96 yards, including the touchdown, which was named the top play of the day on ESPN SportsCenter.

PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

CATCH SERVES AS DEFINING MOMENT OF ABDULLAH'S CAREER TO DATE

AS I SAT DOWN TO WRITE THIS COLUMN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE HUSKER'S 31-24 VICTORY OVER MCNEESE STATE, I CHOSE TO STOP. I WANTED TO LET THE REST OF THE DAY IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAY OUT AND ALSO LET THE IMMEDIATE EMOTION OF AMEER ABDULLAH'S GAME-WINNING TOUCHDOWN CATCH SUBSIDE SO I HAD A CLEAR HEAD AS I FINISHED IT.

Prior to Saturday's game while walking around outside Memorial Stadium with my family, I pointed out Heisman trophy winner Johnny Rodgers to my daughters as we walked by him outside Memorial Stadium.

I bring this up because all of the great athletes have a moment in their career that defines them.

It is moment that summarizes everything that was great about that person and that they will be remembered for years after their athletic careers are over. For Rodgers it was a touchdown return he had against Oklahoma in the Game of the Century.

Inside Memorial Stadium on Saturday, Nebraska's opponent, McNeese State, was far from the mighty Oklahoma teams that Nebraska hooked up with in the early 1970s. In fact they were a FCS opponent, not expected to be on the same level as the Cornhuskers.

However, Nebraska's current star, Ameer Abdullah, turned in one of those defining moments of his career with his 58-yard touchdown catch and run that saw him break at least five McNeese State tackles en route to the winning touchdown with 20 seconds left on the clock.

"That kid (Ameer Abdullah) made a great play," McNeese State head coach Matt Viator said. "You've got to give him credit. That has to be on some kind of highlight tape."

Abdullah has turned in many highlights during his time at Nebraska, but given the



current state of the football program and Big Ten Conference as a whole, his efforts on Saturday saved the day for Big Red as it tries to claw itself back into relevance in college football.

As McNeese State was driving to potentially score a go-ahead touchdown or what turned out to be a game-tying field goal late in the fourth quarter, national audiences and media were tweeting and talking about the possibility of No. 19 NU being upset by a smaller, FCS opponent.

Abdullah had not had a great day to that point, being held to a three-year low of 54 yards rushing. A potential loss to McNeese State in the second game of his senior season surely was not how Abdullah envisioned his senior season going when he turned down millions to return to Lincoln.

Abdullah wants to leave Nebraska as a champion and through his efforts, NU was able to escape the weekend with a 2-0 record. Later on Saturday, Michigan State, Michigan, Ohio State, Purdue and Northwestern all lost, leaving NU as one of the conference's few teams with a shot to represent the Big Ten in the inaugural playoff at the end of the season.

After the game he was interviewed by the ESPNU announcers and was the last Husker to come down the Tunnel Walk back to the locker room.

Nebraska fans stuck around six to seven deep to express their thanks to the senior who easily could have left the program at the end of his junior season. A lucky youth in front of me who held up a sign announcing that he was at his first game was the lucky recipient of one of Abdullah's gloves.

What a story he will have to tell his kids one day should he see Abdullah outside a Husker game in 40 years.



Behind the N

Celebrating a Close Victory

PHOTOS BY JOE MIXAN, JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Nebraska's cheerleaders celebrate Nebraska's 31-24 victory on the field after the game. (Joe Mixan) NU celebrated its 335th straight sellout. (Jimmy Rash) Jack Hellbusch (17 months) tailgates with his mom, Abbi, before going to his first Husker game. (Jimmy Rash) Dani, Jacob, Steve and Joey Tomaszewicz of Omaha pose for a photograph before the game. (Joe Mixan) Nebraska alum, Kevin Coleman from Lincoln poses before the game. (Jimmy Rash) From left, Kami Merkel, Bobbi Leuthold and Sandi Van Driel, all of Norfolk, tailgate before the game. (Jimmy Rash) Ken and Crystal Zimmerman from Rising City brought their boys Aiden (9) and Kreyten (9) to their first Husker game. (Jimmy Rash). Brad Holtorf from Fremont poses with his grandchildren from Omaha, Jack Holtorf, 6, Alice Olson, 5, and Ginny Holtorf, 3. (Jimmy Rash) Piper Sponski, Kascie Coleman and Cameron Sopinski show their Husker spirit. (Joe Mixan) Molly Mares, left, and Faith Simon from Burwell pose for a shot before the Husker game. (Jimmy Rash) Levar Higgins Sr. from Omaha brought his son Levar Jr. to to first Husker game. (Jimmy Rash)



Injuries deplete NU's depth at receiver

Jordan Westerkamp celebrates his 40-yard touchdown catch against McNeese State.



STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH

In less than one half of football, what appeared to be a position of strength for Nebraska suddenly became depleted.

Following a 31-24 victory over McNeese State, Cornhuskers' head coach Bo Pelini announced that senior wide receiver Jamal Turner suffered a torn Achilles tendon and is lost for the season. Earlier in the game, senior wide receiver Kenny Bell injured his groin and was listed as day to day.

With wide receivers Sam Burtch (head) and Brandon Reilly (hamstring) already sidelined by injuries, Nebraska found itself without four of its top seven receivers prior to the intermission. Despite the losses, wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp said the Huskers had to

take a next-man-up approach.

"That's the nature of the game," Westerkamp said of Nebraska's injuries at wide receiver. "I feel terrible for those guys when they have injuries like that, but the next guy has got to be ready to go and step up."

"Guys are expected to come in here and step up, so we have a lot of work to do this week, but we'll be ready to go."

With Bell's status a question mark for the Fresno State game, Westerkamp could play an even more prominent role in Nebraska's offense.

The sophomore led the Huskers with four receptions for 61 yards, including a 40-yard touchdown catch from quarterback Tommy Armstrong that pulled Nebraska into a 7-7 tie with 6:44 remaining in the first quarter.

Westerkamp said losing depth at wide receiver was no excuse for the Nebraska offense's second-half struggles against the Cowboys. The Huskers finished with 437 total yards, but 297 yards came in the first half.

Armstrong, who finished 16-of-31 passing for 242 yards and two TDs and one interception, was just 3-of-8 for 18 yards after halftime before throwing a short pass that I-back Ameer Abdullah turned into a 58-yard TD reception for the game-winner with 20 seconds left.

"It really doesn't affect Tommy too much because all those guys rotate throughout practice," Westerkamp said when asked if Nebraska's injuries at receiver affected Armstrong. "Tommy's used to all those guys, so he's not really thrown off too much."

Lack of focus hampers Nebraska defense

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH

Pregame talk that Nebraska wouldn't overlook Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) opponent McNeese State turned out to be just that — talk.

The Cornhuskers found themselves in a dogfight most of the way before pulling out a 31-24 victory over the Cowboys at Memorial Stadium. The score was tied at 24-24 before Nebraska I-back Ameer Abdullah produced the go-ahead touchdown on a 58-yard reception with 20 seconds to play.

Simply put, Nebraska senior cornerback Josh Mitchell said the Huskers lacked focus.

"We just weren't ready," Mitchell said. "We took those guys too lightly and they came ready to play."

"We weren't focused at practice and

it showed in the game today. The game speaks for itself."

Nebraska sophomore defensive back Nate Gerry agreed.

"We started out the beginning of the week where we didn't really take practice with the energy we had last week," said Gerry, who led Nebraska 13 total tackles. "It kind of bit us in the butt towards the end of the game."

For the second-consecutive contest, Nebraska's defense yielded a TD on the opponent's first possession. After getting a fourth-down stop, McNeese State took over at the Huskers' 47-yard line and mounted a 10-play drive, scoring on Derrick Milton's nine-yard run to take a 7-0 lead with 8:26 left in the first quarter.

NU's defense kept the Cowboys contained for the most part after that — until the

fourth quarter. McNeese State quarterback Tyler Bolting's 1-yard TD sneak with 13:45 to play capped a 12-play, 83-yard drive and Alex Kjellsten's 24-yard field goal with 4:21 left that tied it at 24-24 came after a 14-play, 88-yard drive by the Cowboys.

McNeese State finished with 338 total yards, including 178 yards rushing. Using a two-quarterback system, the Cowboys got 101 yards on 9-of-17 passing from Bolting, while Daniel Sams was just 3-of-9 passing for 59 yards, but rushed 10 times for 74 yards.

"I'm disappointed that that's the way we came out to play today," Nebraska defensive coordinator John Papuchis said. "I think everyone in that locker room — coaches included and players — owns this. There's not much else to say."

Zaire Anderson (13) and Josh Mitchell (5) combine on the tackle of McNeese State's Ryan Ross (26)



Late play lifts Huskers to 31-24 victory

Ameer Abdullah makes five Cowboys miss on 58-yard TD catch

STORY BY LANNY HOLSTEIN | PHOTO BY JOE MIXAN

At the Nebraska 42 with under a minute to play, the Huskers were facing a third and six. The game tied at 24, Nebraska needed to make a play and get itself at least into field goal range for a shot at the win.

Offensive coordinator Tim Beck called for Ameer Abdullah to get the ball in his hands with a similar screen pass that Nebraska had used to set up the Hail Mary against Northwestern last year.

The running back flared out to the right flat and Tommy fired him the ball short of the first down. Abdullah then dipped and ducked his way through a group of McNeese State defenders into the clear and into the end zone.

"It's kind of a blur now. I didn't realize I broke five tackles, but I'm glad I did," Abdullah said. "I'm glad I got the score because it was the icing on the cake, and I really put the game out of reach. The football gods were definitely on our side today. We got very lucky."

Coach Bo Pelini thought it was more than luck. He and Beck put the ball in Abdullah's hands on purpose, because they knew he would do something special.

"Ameer put the team on his back and won the game," Pelini said. "With the kickoff return, too. Thank God for Ameer today."

Abdullah's run gave the Huskers a 31-24 win on a day in which the team didn't play up to its potential by the coaches' estimation. The senior captain had a rough game himself, only rushing for 54 yards on 17 carries, but he came through in the clutch.

"He showed why he is who he is," Pelini said. "First thing he did was address the team in the locker room. He knows. He's been around long enough and he gets it. That's why he's a tremendous leader. Not just a tremendous player, but a tremendous leader."

Nebraska needed the late game heroics to beat FCS McNeese State because its offense didn't do enough to pull away in the second half. Tommy Armstrong struggled in his second start of the season, going 16-of-31 for 242 yards and a pair of scores. He also threw a costly interception as Nebraska was going in to score in the second quarter that was returned 98 yards for a touchdown.

"I thought he reacted well," Pelini



Ameer Abdullah races to the endzone on his game-winning touchdown catch.

said of Armstrong. "But it shouldn't happen in the first place. And it shouldn't have gotten to that. If we had taken a flat route like we had before, we probably could've walked in the end zone."

The passing game wasn't as crisp as it was against Florida Atlantic, and the offensive execution wasn't there, according to Pelini.

"We predetermined at times what we were going to do with the football and you can't do that," the coach said. "You've got to take what's there. That hurt us."

Pelini accepted much of the blame himself.

"At the end of the day, we got outcoached, we

got out played, and like I said before, we were lucky to win the football game," he said. "This football team needs to take a good long look in the mirror, starting with me. We'll get back to work. I look forward to moving forward with this football team."

On paper, the next couple games will be tougher than McNeese State, but Nebraska is moving on unfazed by the narrow margin of victory on Saturday.

"Nothing has changed as far as what the potential is in this team, trust me," Pelini said. "But you have to play. There's a lot of things we need to do in order to get better as a football team."

SUMMARY

SCORING

September 6, 2014

Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Nebraska

Attendance: 91,082

	1	2	3	4	F
MCNEESE STATE	7	7	0	10	24
NEBRASKA	14	7	3	7	31

Q1 8:26 MS - Milton, Derrick 9 yd run (Kjellsten, Alex kick) 10-47 4:36

6:44 NEB - Westerkamp, Jordan 40 yd pass from Tommy Armstrong (Brown, Drew kick) 6-73 1:37

3:00 NEB - Abdullah, Ameer 2 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 6-67 2:10

Q2 10:08 MS - Aaron, Sam 98 yd interception return (Kjellsten, Alex kick)

5:47 NEB - Armstrong 1 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 12-82 4:16

Q3 3:51 NEB - Brown, Drew 31 yd field goal 5-33 2:22

Q4 13:45 MS - Bolfing, Tyler 1 yd run (Kjellsten, Alex kick) 12-83 4:59

4:21 MS - Kjellsten, Alex 24 yd field goal 14-88 6:09

0:20 NEB - Abdullah, Ameer 58 yd pass from Armstrong (Brown, Drew kick) 3-62 0:54

TEAM STATS

	NEBRASKA	MCNEESE STATE
FIRST DOWNS	17	15
Rushing	7	7
Passing	9	7
Penalty	1	1
NET YARDS RUSHING	195	178
Rushing Attempts	33	45
Average Per Rush	5.9	4.0
Rushing Touchdowns	2	2
Yards Gained Rushing	214	188
Yards Lost Rushing	19	10
NET YARDS PASSING	242	160
Completions-Attempts-Int.	16-31-1	12-26-1
Average Per Attempt	7.8	6.2
Average Per Completion	15.1	13.3
Passing Touchdowns	2	0
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	437	338
Total offense plays	64	71
Average Gain Per Play	6.8	4.8
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	5-40	6-44
PUNTS-YARDS	6-307	8-315
Average Yards Per Punt	51.2	39.4
Net Yards Per Punt	48.0	32.9
Inside 20	4	0
50+ Yards	5	0
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	1	1
KICKOFFS-YARDS	6-379	5-307
Average Yards Per Kickoff	63.2	61.4
Net Yards Per Kickoff	44.0	36.2
Touchbacks	2	0
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	5-52-0	3-19-0
Average Per Return	4.8	0.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	5-126-0	4-65-0
Average Per Return	25.2	16.2
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-0-0	1-98-1
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Possession Time	25:08	34:52
Third-Down Conversions	4 of 13	5 of 17
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 2	2 of 2
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-4	3-3
Touchdowns	2-4	2-3
Field goals	1-4	1-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-2	1-2
PAT Kicks	4-4	3-3
Field Goals	1-1	1-1

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

MCNEESE STATE

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Sams, Daniel	10	75	1	74	0	26	7.4
Bennett, Kelvin	19	54	1	53	0	9	2.8
Holmes, Nate	3	23	0	23	0	13	7.7
Milton, Derrick	6	19	1	18	1	9	3.0
Thomas, Khalil	1	9	0	9	0	9	9.0
Bolfing, Tyler	3	5	2	3	1	4	1.0
Celestie, Ernest	1	3	0	3	0	3	3.0
Long, Dylan	2	0	5	-5	0	0	-2.5
Totals	45	188	10	178	2	26	4.0

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Bolfing, Tyler	9-17-1	101	0	32	1
Sam, Daniel	3-9-0	59	0	40	0
Totals	12-26-1	160	0	40	1

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Shelby, Kent	2	47	0	40
Bennett, Kelvin	2	35	0	32
Celestie, Ernest	2	20	0	14
Hetrick, Zach	1	27	0	27
Holmes, Nate	1	12	0	12
Bush, David	1	6	0	6
Milton, Derrick	1	5	0	5
McGilvery, Jereon	1	5	0	5
Long, Dylan	1	3	0	3
Totals	12	160	0	40

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Breaux, Jean	8	315	39.4	45	0	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Holmes, Nate	3	19	11	2	45	24	0	0	0
Sam, Aaron	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	98	98
Thomas, Khalil	0	0	0	2	20	15	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Kjellsten, Alex	4th	04:21	24 yds	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
94 Ellefsen, Ever. 4	3	7	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 Sam, Aaron	3	4	7	-	-	-	1-98	1	-	-	-
6 Spikes, Brent	1	6	7	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
7A Hill, Dominq.	4	2	6	1-2	2-7	1	-	-	1	-	-
43 Hine, Brian	3	2	5	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Pennington, A.2	3	5	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12 Thompson, D.	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 Thomas, Khalil	0	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 Brown, Bo	0	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
75 Dorn, Kevin	0	3	3	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 McGilvery, Je.	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
49 Goins, Ashari	1	1	2	-	1-3	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 Antonie, Jer.	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8A Fuller, Andre	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
96 Hunter, Danyel	0	2	2	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	1	-
4 Hammer, Gabe	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Carroll, Carlos	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29 Bennett, Kel.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
92 Gross, Jame.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 Scott, Wall.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
34 Long, Dylan	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51 Garcia, Gust.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
84 Romero, Hun.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
97 Brown, Sean	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	11	133	2	131	1	42	11.9
Abdullah, Ameer	17	67	13	54	1	19	3.2
Newby, Terrell	2	9	0	9	0	5	4.5
Cross, Imani	3	5	4	1	0	3	0.3
Totals	57	498	0	498	5	47	8.7

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	16-31-1	242	2	58	1
Totals	17-35-0	286	2	63	0

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Westerkamp, Jordan	4	61	1	40
Abdullah, Ameer	3	96	1	58
Turner, Jamal	3	28	0	17
Allen, Taariq	3	27	0	14
Bell, Kenny	1	14	0	14
Moore, Alonzo	1	11	0	11
Carter, Cethan	1	5	0	5
Totals	16	242	2	58

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Foltz, Sam	6	307	51.2	61	4	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Pierson-El, Dem.	5	52	25	2	36	18	0	0	0
Bell, Kenny	0	0	0	2	56	35	0	0	0
Abdullah, Ameer	0	0	0	1	34	34	0	0	0
Cooper, Corey	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Brown, Drew	3rd	3:51	31 yds	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
25 Gerry, Nathan	6	7	13	-	2-3	-	-	-	1	-	1
52 Banderas, Jo.	3	7	10	-	1-3	-	-	-	-	-	-
90 McMullen, Gr. 6	3	9	1-2	2-3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 Anderson, Za.	2	6	8	-	2-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Cooper, Corey	3	3	6	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	1
41 Santos, David	3	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
95 Gangwish, J.	4	1	5	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
7A Collins, Maliek	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Davie, Daniel	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
98 Valentin, Vin.	0	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28 Cockrell, By.	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2C Williams, Kieron	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 Rose, Jonath.	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Kalu, Josh	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
5 Mitchell, Josh	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1B Hovey, Lane	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51 Love, Court.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 Felici, Joey	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 Maurice, Kev.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Defensive line coach Rick Kaczinski shouts encouragement to his players.

RUSHING OFFENSE: The Huskers ran for 195 yards with the majority coming from [b]Tommy Armstrong[/b] on a couple well constructed zone read runs. After that it gets ugly fast with Nebraska struggling to get a push up front and failing to open lanes for [b]Ameer Abdullah[/b] and company. The reason this grade didn't fall further is that the Huskers managed to hold onto the ball and didn't put it on the turf. – *Mike Schaefer*

D

PASSING OFFENSE: The Huskers peaked offensively early in the game with Armstrong clearly struggling to find open receivers in the second half. However, when things were moving NU was creative with a shovel pass or a screen play to counteract the pressure. Those plays were nowhere to be found in the second half with Nebraska clearly needed a spark. Armstrong locked in on receivers, struggled with a few throws and clearly lost confidence after his first interception. His day could've been much worse, as Nebraska was fortunate to escape with only one turnover. – *Mike Schaefer*

D

RUSHING DEFENSE: Despite having an advantage in talent up front, Nebraska's defensive line wasn't able to generate much movement against McNeese State's offensive line. The Huskers gave up large chunks of yards in the zone read game, and when Daniel Sams got outside the pocket, he created problems for Nebraska's defense. After the game, defensive coordinator John Papuchis said Nebraska's front four allowed itself to be blocked. That's a fair assessment, and the tackling, especially against the running game, left a bit to be desired. – *Michael Bruntz*

D+

PASSING DEFENSE: This category could have been much worse for the Huskers, who allowed McNeese players to run free, but benefitted from drops or bad passes. The Cowboys' offensive game plan was a good one, as McNeese was able to get its playmakers into space and found success targeting Nebraska's linebackers and defensive ends on wheel routes. Nebraska yielded 160 yards passing, but a lot of that was due more to McNeese's inconsistency, versus anything that Nebraska did do. – *Michael Bruntz*

D+

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: After a rough opening weekend, Nebraska's special teams performed well on Saturday. Drew Brown hit a 31-yard field goal, and DeMornay Pierson-El seems to have found a permanent home as Nebraska's punt returner. More importantly, Sam Foltz was a weapon as Nebraska was able to flip the field, especially when the offense stalled late in the game. Both the punt and kick coverage units were vastly improved over last week — a big emphasis for the Huskers in practice this week. – *Michael Bruntz*

B+

Quoting defensive coordinator John Papuchis on 31-24 McNeese State victory

Hopefully this will be a humbling experience for us. A week ago today, many people were calling us the greatest team ever. Today, they are calling us not very good. We're probably somewhere in the middle. We have to learn why this happened or we will get the same results over and over again.



GameNotes &

PUNT COVERAGE SHINES

If there was a shining star among a bunch of dud performances on Saturday, it was the Husker punt coverage unit. Sam Foltz and crew backed the Cow-boys up time and again, making them go the length of the field.

Foltz ended up punting six times, averaging over 51 yards per kick, and the coverage unit may have been even better. They held McNeese State to under four yards per return, good for a net of 48 yards per punt.

"We've been solid all fall camp and through two weeks, we've only been out there a couple times, but we got out in coverage today and there were a couple times we were pinning them deep, so that's good to see," Foltz said.

True freshman Josh Kalu was the catalyst in coverage. As a gunner, he made a series of impressive tackles to keep McNeese State from getting any momentum on returns.

"He does it all the time in practice, so seeing it live in Memorial Stadium doesn't shock me at all," Foltz said. "He works hard in practice, and I'm happy for him."

Kalu was ecstatic after the game with his performance. A blowup shot on the Cowboy's returner, Nate Holmes, got him rolling.

"You don't want to hit him too early, but when you see them slowly setting up, you know the ball is coming, he's getting ready to catch it," Kalu said. "I just sink my hips and tackle him."

The Huskers employed a rugby punt on a few occasions, rolling Foltz out to one side or the other in order to avoid the rush. A favor able roll helped on a fourth quarter punt that stopped inside the McNeese State five.

"I'd rather just get it and boom it," Foltz said. "But it just comes down to what we're doing, scheme-wise. If they give us something we can't handle, then we are going to go ahead and roll. I'm comfortable doing either, but growing up as a true punter, I like just catching it and booming it."

He had a few traditional boomers as well, including a punt that went 56-yards through the air.

MOUDY MAKES AN IMPORTANT FUMBLE RECOVERY

Two plays before Nebraska would score the game winning touchdown on an Ameer Abdullah catch and run, the game was nearly lost.

When Tommy Armstrong dropped back to pass inside the Huskers own 30 yard-line and had the ball swiped from his hands, a fortuitous bounce kept it in Nebraska's possession.

"I was pass protecting and I looked back and saw the ball come out of Tommy's hands. Luckily, it bounced right in between my legs, and I just fell on

Nebraska's gunner Josh Kalu (2) downs Sam Foltz's punt deep in McNeese State territory.



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

it and held onto the ball,” guard Mike Moudy said. “That was a big play, but that’s not the kind of big play I’m looking to be on TV for.”

Moudy would surely rather be on TV for making a pancake block or springing a touch-down run, but he was prepared to recover the fumble nonetheless.

“We did that drill maybe a couple years ago. That was the last time we did it,” Moudy said. “The ball bounces in to you, you grab it with your arms and then roll your knees up to your chest and pray to god no one rips it out.”

PIERSON-EL TAKES OVER KICK RETURNS

The punt return unit looked a little different in week two with De’Mornay Pierson-El back

to receive.

After the way things turned out against McNeese State, fans will be calling for the true freshman to line up as the deep man more often. Pierson-El returned five punts for 52 yards, including a 25-yarder that he ripped off in the third quarter.

“I’m going to have to teach him a little bit about what a fair catch is, like he did on the last one,” coach Bo Pelini said after watching the returner make a running catch on his last attempt. “But you like to see that out of a guy. He has a lot of confidence. He’s pretty special with the ball in his hands. We thought that when we recruited him.”

The Huskers started the year with Kenny Bell returning punts, but when he went down with an injury against the Cowboys,

there was no taking Pierson-El out.

“He did it through camp, but we just didn’t want to put him out there to start the year,” Pelini said. “I like what I’ve seen out of him.”

THE STREAK CONTINUES

The Huskers would much rather have pulled away with the win on Saturday, but late in the 31-24 win, fans had to feel good about their chances in a tight game.

Nebraska picked up its 10th-straight win in a game decided by 10 points or less against McNeese State. That streak leads the nation.

The Huskers also went to 11-0 all time against FCS opponents in what was their last scheduled meeting with such a team.

FINAL SCORE: NEBRASKA 31, MCNEESE STATE 24



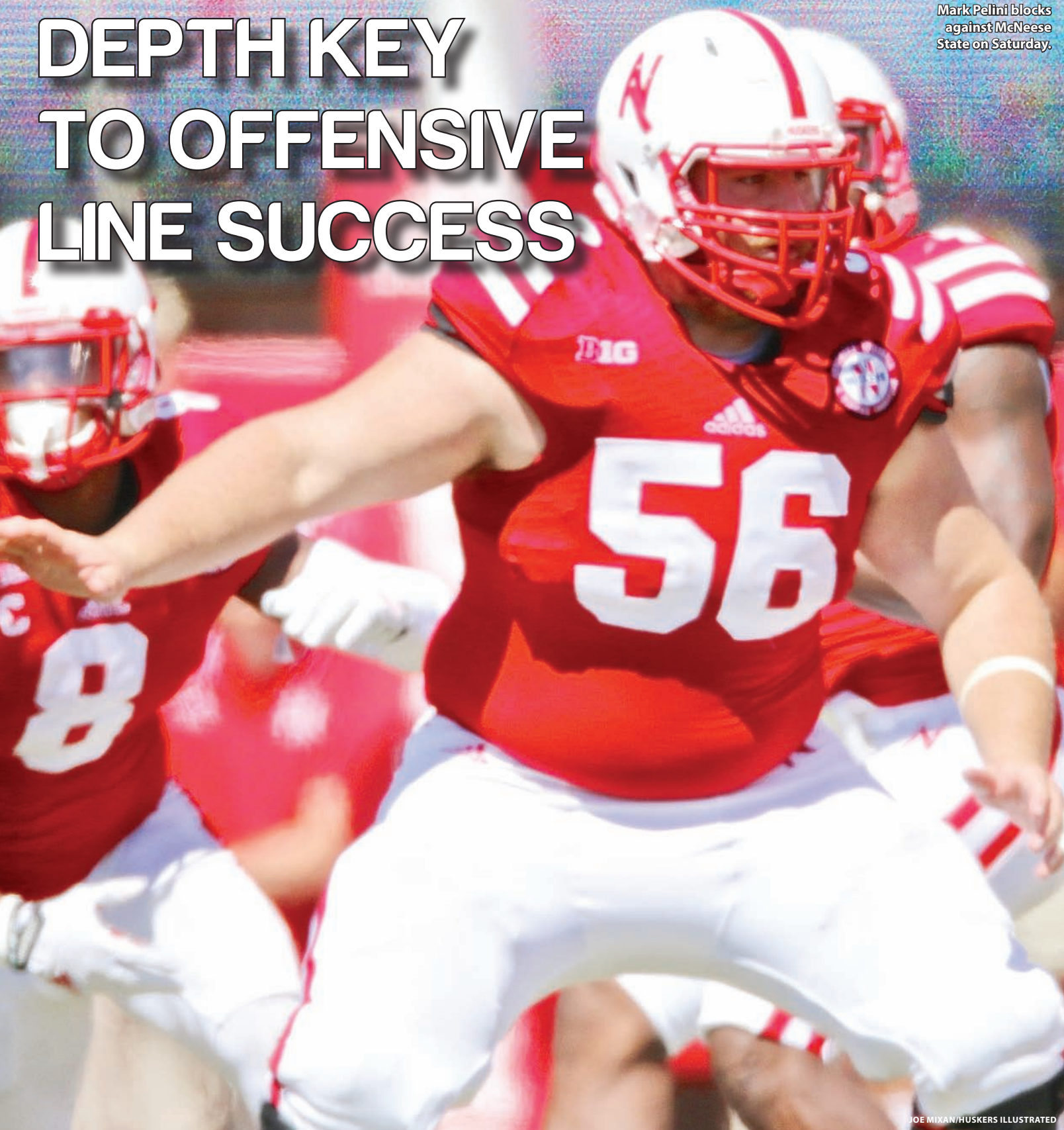
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: JOSH KALU TACKLES MCNEESE STATE'S NATE HOLMES RIGHT AS HE CATCHES A PUNT. (JIMMY RASH) AMEER ABDULLAH PICKS UP A BLOCK FROM JORDAN WESTERKAMP ON HIS WAY TO A 58-YARD TOUCHDOWN CATCH. (JOE MIXAN) JORDAN WESTERKAMP AND TAARIQ ALLEN CELEBRATE AFTER WESTERKAMP'S 40-YARD TOUCHDOWN CATCH IN THE FIRST QUARTER. (JIMMY RASH) TOMMY ARMSTRONG BREAKS FREE ON A CAREER-LONG 42-YARD RUN AND FINISHED THE GAME WITH A CAREER-HIGH 131 YARDS. (JOE MIXAN) MCNEESE STATE'S AARON SAM INTERCEPTS A PASS INTENDED FOR JORDAN WESTERKAMP AND RETURNS IT 98 YARDS FOR A TOUCHDOWN TO MAKE THE SCORE 14-14. (JOE MIXAN) JONATHAN ROSE SLAMS DOWN MCNEESE STATE'S KHALIL THOMAS ON A RETURN. (JIMMY RASH)



2MinuteDrill

DEPTH KEY TO OFFENSIVE LINE SUCCESS

Mark Pelini blocks
against McNeese
State on Saturday.



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

By Darren Ivy & Lanny Holstein

Husker offensive line coach John Garrison was tough on his unit in the offseason. Here and there, he let his guys know they were being counted on for a little more this season. He let them know they were being perceived as the weak link, according to left tackle Alex Lewis.

Husker offensive coordinator Tim Beck was not part of that motivational strategy. In fact, he said this past week that he expects big things from the hogmalies up front.

"I don't know if they are the weak link," Beck said. "They are inexperienced, but they are talented guys. I think they're tough guys. They play hard. I never thought they were the weak link of the offense at all. I just thought they were inexperienced."

Following the opening game with Florida Atlantic, it was hard to put the offensive line down as a weak link any longer. The front line paved the way for a Big Ten record 748 yards of total offense and the second best rushing day in the nation, 498 yards on the ground.

"We kind of take care of the first few yards, and then (the backs) make the magic happen," left guard Jake Cotton said. "Watching the film, there were a lot of things we could do better and our backs bailed us out."

That may be true to some extent, but Cotton, Lewis and the rest of the front have gelled into a nice group early in the year, according to Beck. The rotation includes as many as 10 guys, and that's where it needs to be.

"You want probably 8-10," Beck said. "You need to have a backup center, a backup guard and a backup tackle, plus your starting five, so at least eight."

The Huskers have that with Mark Pelini and Ryne Reeves working at center, Mike Moudy and Chongo Kondolo working at right guard (Cotton at left) and Givens Price, Zach Sterup and David Knevel working at tackle behind Lewis.

"I think John (Garrison) and Barney (Cotton) have done a good job with those guys up front simplifying some things offensively," Beck said. "We've been rolling them throughout, so I think they know they're going to play and they're wired into the game plan, approaching practice knowing they are going to play."

Depth is key at any position, but is at a premium on the offensive line, according to Beck. The Huskers learned that the hard way a season ago when Spencer Long, Jeremiah Sirles, and Jake Cotton each missed time with injury.

"Hopefully we are going to keep the rotation going," Beck said. "I don't think there's a whole lot of separation between some of those guys. We want to play them, get them reps because it's a long season, and we will probably need them."

The injury bug that hit the line a season ago is actually helping it this year. Missing players opened holes for this year's starters to move up.

"I thought that was great that those guys were in there," Beck said of then-backups like Moudy, Sterup and Pelini. "It was unfortunate for our senior guys, we didn't want to see that happen to last year's team, but it certainly helped those guys in their development, being able to go out and play because of what they did last year."

They're still working on getting the experience part to where the coaching staff wants it, but as for the weak-link theory, that's been totally debunked.

"Yeah, but they're still hungry," Beck said.

GREGORY ON THE MEND

Expect Randy Gregory to be back in action this weekend against Fresno State.

The star defensive end reinjured his knee on Nebraska's first defensive series of the year against Florida Atlantic, but the team's training staff took

HI'S TOP 5

AMEER ABDULLAH HIGHLIGHTS IN HIS NU CAREER

Ameer Abdullah makes the catch to start his memorable 58-yard touchdown.

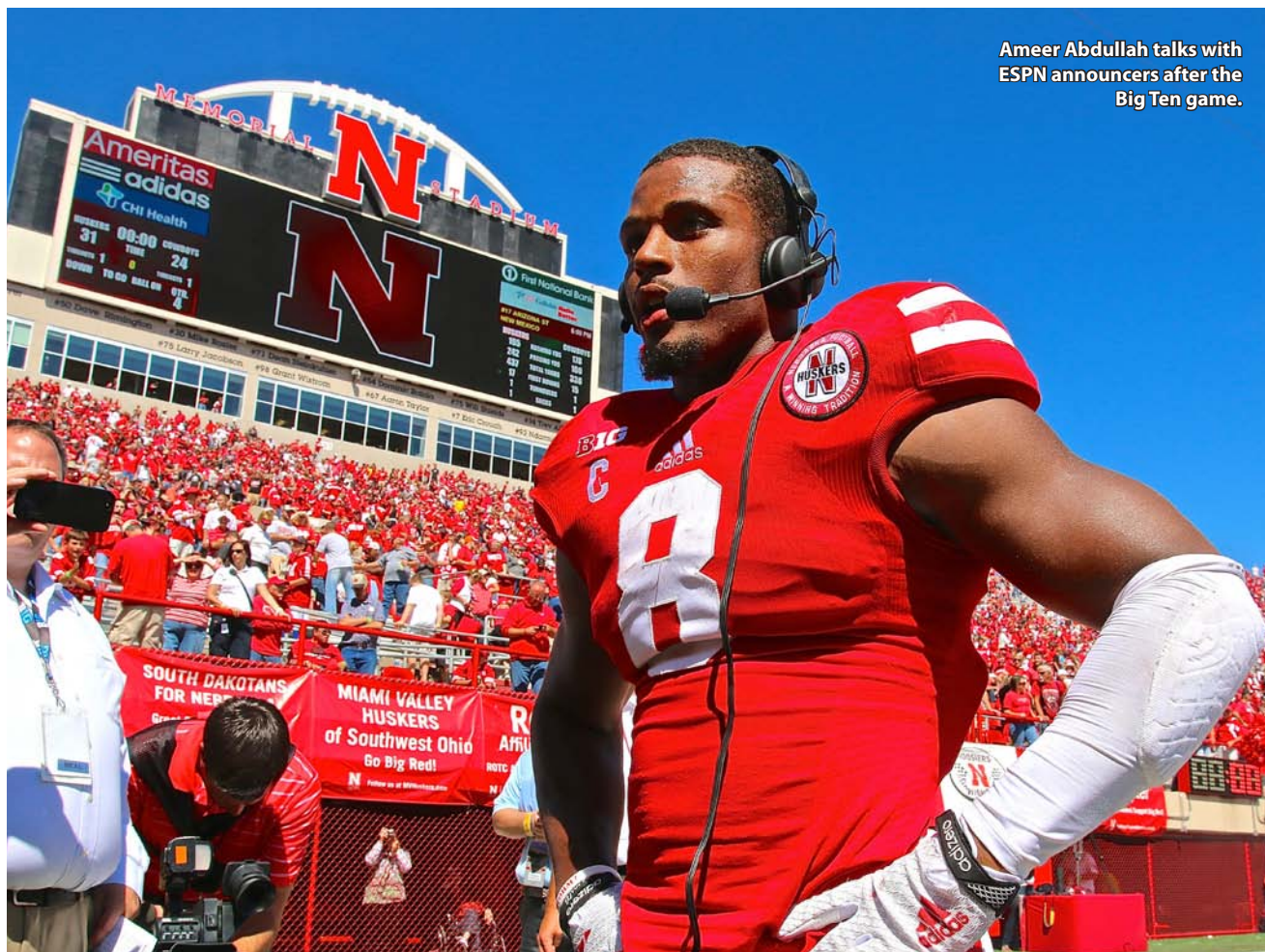


JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

- 1 58-YARD TOUCHDOWN CATCH VS. MCNEESE STATE IN 2014**
- 2 CAREER-HIGH 232 RUSHING YARDS AGAINST FAU IN 2014**
- 3 WINNING TOUCHDOWN RUN AT MICHIGAN IN 2013.**
- 4 4TH-DOWN CONVERSION VS. NORTHWESTERN IN 2013**
- 5 100-YARD PUNT RETURN VS. FRESNO STATE IN 2011.**

Nebraska senior Ameer Abdullah has made many valuable contributions to the Husker football program the last four years. His efforts against McNeese State to score the winning touchdowns when the momentum was against the Huskers and his leadership after the game continue to add to his legacy and define how he will be remembered at NU. This list may change by the end of the season, but up to now here are the top five.

1-on-1 with AMEER ABDULLAH



Ameer Abdullah talks with ESPN announcers after the Big Ten game.

Nebraska senior Ameer Abdullah spoke with Huskers Illustrated before the McNeese State game about being a captain two years in a row, playing on the punt block unit and about a variety of other topics.

Story By LANNY HOLSTEIN • Photo By JOE MIXAN

What does it mean to be a captain this season?

"It means a lot. You know I've been here four years now. I've seen the caliber of players that have been chosen to be captain of this team, and to be with the likes of those guys is really an honor."

What are your roles as captain?

"Just to set the standard every week. As the season goes on you get worn out and kind of lose that fire, but I want to be the spark for the team. I want to lead the right way. I want to set the tone of what it means to be a winner. And the way that we win is excellent leadership and staying the course throughout the year."

As a captain, do you get on people who are slacking?

"Definitely, definitely. That's any week. You should never take an opponent lightly. We're not good enough to do that. We're not a good enough squad to take anyone lightly. We have a lot to improve on, like I said earlier. We have, by no means reached where we need to be. There's a lot of things on the film that we have to correct to beat a lot of teams in our conference. We've got a pretty tough conference schedule coming ahead of us, and we need to take games like this to get much better at our craft before those games come up."

How did it feel to be out there on punt block the first couple weeks?

"It was different. It was really different. That was my first time lining up in a game setting while on the front line, ready to block a punt. A lot I can learn from, a lot of things I need to clean up technically with my steps, making sure

I'm engaging my opponents, but I want to block a punt this year. I'm destined to do that and hopefully this is the week."

Did you have to persuade the coaches to let you go out there?

"No, we want to put the best 11 on the field at whatever position, and they feel like I'm the best at coming on the edge and blocking a punt, and they're not going to hold me back from being in there. We do a lot of drill and position work in the offseason to try people out, and I worked pretty hard because I wanted to be on it."

Why do you want so badly to top block a punt?

"Because it could change a game. A lot of people don't realize special teams is probably the most important part of football because it's the quickest way to swing the game. If you have a kickoff return, it nullifies a team really you know, because it's so unexpected. You can expect an offense to try to make a drive and score, but if a team returns a kick on you, that really shocks you. If you block a punt, and especially if you block a punt which I want to do and score, that's even better. Just a highlight play gets the morale of a team much higher and something I really want to do."

How does it feel to be just the eighth person to reach 3,000 rushing yards in Nebraska history?

"It's great. I didn't even realize that happened. Just to do it at a University like the University of Nebraska, it means a lot because there's been a lot of good running backs to come through, a lot of great legacies have been built here. I'm just trying to build a legacy

of my own, so it's a great milestone for me but hopefully we just get another W, that'd be a bigger one."

What kind of offensive line are you running behind this year?

"It started off a little shaky at the beginning of camp because we were starting so many different guys at different positions. Trying to see how diverse we can be up front. It started to come together during the second week of camp. Guys were really understanding who they were playing next to, and they'd know where they want each other to be on each play. We're going to be pretty good up front."

What about the left size of the line with Alex Lewis and Jake Cotton?

"Hell in a helmet. Hell in a helmet, man. Crazy folks. They come off the ball hard. They love blocking the run. They love putting someone on their back. And I love running behind them. There's a lot of energy on that side of the line. They dictate the momentum for us as an offense. Depending on how they come out is how we are going to play."

What differences have you seen in Tommy Armstrong this year?

"He talks more. He talks a lot now. He actually talks too much a little bit. He understands plays much better, so he knows where his windows are. He's much quicker. A lot of times you'll see him drop back and kind of hesitate and then find the open guy. Now he kind of understands where people are going to be, which coverages to play away from as far as rotation with the safeties. And he's hitting windows and lanes much quicker, which is really critical as a quarterback in this offense."

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*Android 2.2 or higher with Flash required. Not compatible with all devices.

Nebraska has added fireworks to its new Tunnel Walk opening before games.



JIM RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

quick action to fix this issue.

“Randy Gregory, it was similar to what happened to (Andy) Janovich when he got hurt a couple weeks ago,” coach Bo Pelini said. “It was an old injury, something that just flared up on him. They went in there and fixed it... He’s probable for the Fresno game.”

Gregory had his knee scoped less than 24 hours after hearing a “clicking” sound in the joint and going to the sideline against the Owls. Pelini said after the game he could have reinserted Gregory but decided to take the cautious route. That route took the defensive end out of the McNeese State game as well.

“We’re not looking to rush him back right now,” Pelini said. “We want to make sure he’s 100 percent, and that he feels good. Whatever that time frame is, we’ll see. I could say this, like Janovich, we’ve had a couple of guys that have had something very similar and they came back very quickly.”

Gregory’s injury history is a clean slate at Nebraska, but he had been testing out knee



JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Defensive end Ross Dzuris (88) works with other defensive linemen prior to McNeese State to pick up the slack for the injured Randy Gregory.

braces in fall camp because of an injury he suffered in high school.

“It was something he did playing basketball years ago and it flared up on him,” Pelini said. “The MRI clearly showed that it was an old injury. It was a non-contact

thing. Like I said, it was just something when you’re out there playing, you don’t know what’s going to flare something up like that.”

The plan is to get Gregory back against the Bulldogs this weekend, but if it takes another week for him to get

fully healthy, they will give it to him.

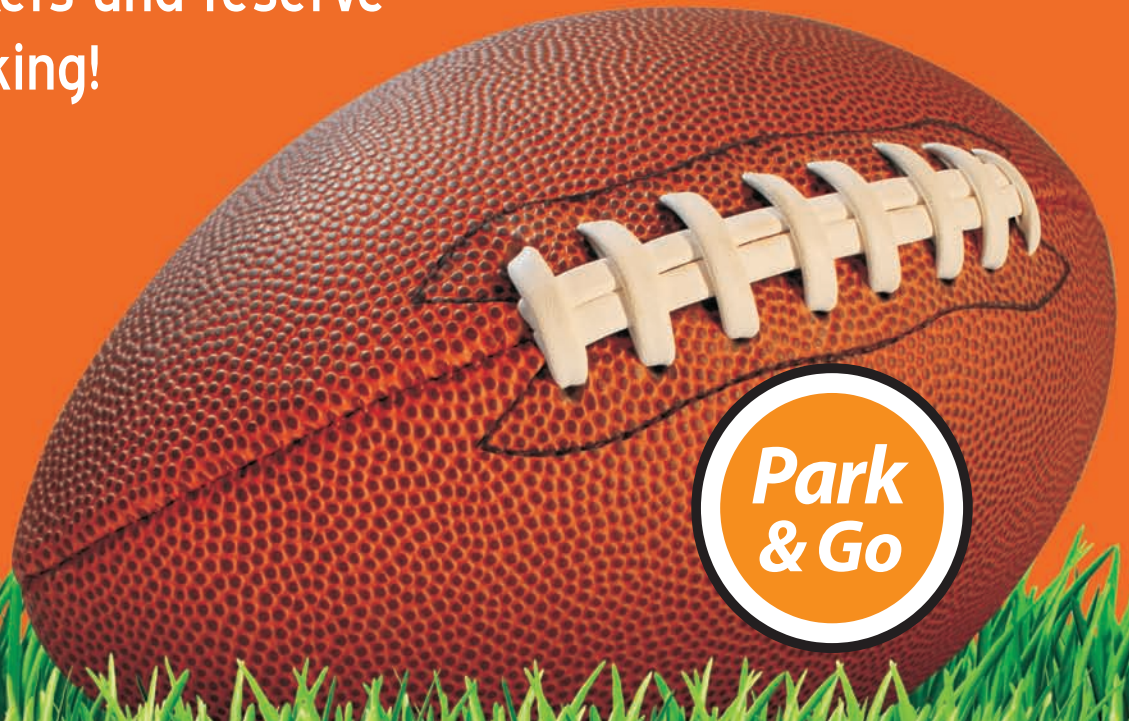
RESERVES IMPRESSING PELINI

With Gregory out the past couple weeks, a couple other defensive ends had their chance at the limelight rushing

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the passer.

Greg McMullen, the usual starter opposite Gregory, was impressive in his first couple shots, according to coach Bo Pelini.

"It's like night and day for Greg," the coach said. "He had a good year last year. He was very productive last year in the snaps that he played because he's a good football player. He's really focused. He's an instinctive guy. With his size and strength, he's a physical guy out there. I like how Greg's playing."

On the other side, walk-on Jack Ganguish has held up his end of the bargain as well. A lot was made of his back-story in fall camp, but when he was thrust into the action against Florida Atlantic and McNeese State, the redshirt junior responded.

"I thought he did some good things," Pelini said. "I think there are things that he'd want back and we'd want back. I think he played hard. I think Jack's going to help us. There's no question. He's really worked hard."

Pelini also mentioned Peyton Newell and Joe Keels as others that have stepped up in Gregory's absence.

IS AN OFFENSIVE IDENTITY FORMING?

The 2014 Husker offense is starting to come into focus for offensive coordinator Tim Beck and coach Bo Pelini. After fall camp and a couple games of tinkering with personnel and schemes, a few strengths have arisen.

"When it's there, Tommy (Armstrong) throws the (deep) ball well and we have guys that can get far down the field," Pelini said. "We're going to take what's there. I thought he made some good reads."

Nebraska hasn't had the deep ball in its arsenal much



Alex Lewis (71) helps open a hole for Tommy Armstrong to run against McNeese State.

of the past few seasons with Taylor Martinez at the helm, but since it's a natural strength for Armstrong, the Huskers are going to use it.

"I think it's important for us that as long as we're going to be able to run the football, we have to keep people off of us, too," Pelini said. "If you want to load the box, you're going to have to keep our guys going down the field. We've got some guys who can make a stretch down the field, that's for sure."

The man at the offensive controls, Tim Beck, isn't always a fan favorite, but he has the full confidence of his head coach.

"Tim's an outstanding offensive mind and football coach," Pelini said. "He really understands the game. He understands the defense. I think he does a really good job of giving our guys the op-

portunity to have great success – both in the running and passing game and marrying the two so that they work together."

LEWIS FITTING RIGHT IN

There were plenty of reasons for his teammates not to like Alex Lewis. The Colorado transfer came to Nebraska over a year ago under cloudy circumstances, having plead guilty to misdemeanor assault charges for an incident in which he beat an air force cadet pretty good. And it wasn't just that.

His teammates could simply have rejected him as a guy gunning for their jobs as well.

But none of that was the case because Lewis came in and did the right things from "day one," according to coach Bo Pelini.

"He has come out and been

a great teammate and really just been 'N'. He plays hard and he is aggressive, he works hard at what he does," the coach said. "He is not overly vocal with what he does, he doesn't say a whole heck of a lot, but he goes out there and has a great approach every single day."

For the coaching staff, Lewis isn't any other player. They expected more out of him than most and even required he get all of his legal issues taken care of and his community service done before he would be put on scholarship. He's done all that and more, according to Pelini.

"He has done a great job for us on and off the field," the coach said. "He has worked really hard in the classroom and has done great academically. He has done everything we have asked."



RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER

RECRUITING EDITOR

HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

NU doing well recruiting 500-mile radius

As we move into the third quarter of Nebraska's recruiting – the in-season part – it's time to look back at what the Huskers have done to get to this point.

NU sits around Top 30 in the country with its class and has 12 commitments to date – which is likely close to 75 percent of the entire class total.

Nebraska's best commitment Eric Lee has been committed since Feb. 1 and the Huskers have done a nice job with the defensive line (Carlos and Khalil Davis, Daishon Neal), the offensive line (Michael Decker, Christian Gaylord, Mirko Jurkovic) and the secondary (Avery Anderson, Lee and Aaron Williams).

The other thing Nebraska has really focused on with this class is landing players from the 500-mile radius early. The Huskers have two commitments from Colorado, two from Missouri, two from Nebraska and one from Kansas. From there it branches out with a pair from Georgia, then Indiana, Louisiana and Texas.

Hitting the surrounding states and getting the best talent available is a good plan for Nebraska going forward in future classes. The Huskers are most likely to get unofficial visits from these players at a younger age, so they'll

have seen campus, have been around the coaches and have a better understanding of what Nebraska is all about.

Don't be surprised if this is a yearly thing for Nebraska. Five of the first six commitments for the team came from guys that had been to campus multiple times. That's going to be a focus going forward. There's 2016 recruits Nebraska is looking to host often (Jared Bubak, John Raridon) who they hope makeup the early part of that recruiting cycle.

Young an intriguing linebacker target

Nebraska is in need of two linebackers in this 2015 class. The Huskers haven't had as much success with recruiting the position as in previous years, but there are still a few targets to note moving forward like Centennial (Peoria, Ariz.) High defender Dedrick Young.

Nebraska identified Young as one of its top targets among the linebacker group in the 2015 class. Now the Huskers are set to host the three-star defender on Sept. 27 when the team faces Illinois. Young has been in good contact with [b]Ron Brown, Ross Els and Nebraska's recruiting staff.

"I think the recruitment is good," he said. "I want to go over there and see what Nebraska has and go check it

out. Nebraska likes me a lot, they really want me to get up there."

One factor helping entice Young about the Huskers is his friendship with Nebraska commit Avery Anderson. The two have known each other for awhile and played 7-on-7 together. Anderson is also planning his official visit for the Illinois game so he can spend time with Young. Additionally, both of Young's parents will be in attendance for the Illinois game and visit as well.

"I talked to Avery about Nebraska when the Huskers offered me," Young said. "He texted me and told me that he was excited. He wants me to get over there and check it out."

Young currently holds seven offers and carries a three-star rating by both 247Sports and 247Sports Composite. The 6-foot-1, 215-pound three-star is listed as the No. 13 player in Arizona and the No. 78 athlete in the country through the composite rankings.

Will Nebraska turn to JUCOs on defense?

This tends to be the big question as the Husker staff looks to finish out this class. Obviously, Nebraska needs to invest in ready to play help at defensive end – which means the team should be looking for

a JUCO defensive end if it appears a return for Avery Moss is no longer an option.

That's probably why the Huskers have taken a long look at Takkrist McKinley. Nebraska offered the Contra Costa Community College defensive end in mid-August. The 247Sports ranked four-star already holds offers from Oklahoma, Texas UCLA and USC, among others.

The 6-foot-3, 250-pound defensive end already has visits set up with Oklahoma (Dec. 5) and Texas (Dec. 13). He played high school ball at Kennedy in Richmond, Calif., and signed with Cal in 2013 before heading to JUCO.

Elsewhere on defense the Huskers have also made an offer to Oklahoma Northwestern A&M defensive back Justin Martin.

The 6-foot-2, 179-pound Martin is the No. 1 junior college corner in the country and is planning to graduate in the spring. That will give the corner four years to complete three seasons of eligibility at the school he chooses.

Martin holds offers from Florida, Ole Miss, Tennessee, LSU and others, and will begin taking official visits in January after he has completed his second semester of junior college.

N

'It's put up or shut up' time for NU after humbling victory over FCS opponent

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

IF YOU HADN'T SEEN ONE snap of Nebraska's game with McNeese State on Saturday and went solely off player reaction as they filed through the post-game media area, you would have thought Nebraska lost the game to its FCS opponent.

Though nobody said it specifically, the Huskers were granted a bit of a reprieve with Ameer Abdullah's winding, twisting, 58-yard touchdown catch and run. The play gave Nebraska a win, saved a potentially embarrassing loss, but more importantly leaves the team with a chance to right wrongs.

"Well we were lucky to win that one," Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini said. "I can tell you that right now. We were our own worst enemy today. I'm not taking anything away from McNeese State. They played hard and did a lot of good things. But we shot ourselves in the foot time after time after time. Sometimes it didn't hurt us where it should have hurt us in a couple of other instances. At the end of the day, we got out-coached, we got out-played, and like I said before, we were lucky to win the football game. This football team needs to take a good long look in the mirror, starting with me."

That good long look in the mirror will start with why Nebraska was unable to establish a running game behind Abdullah, who finished with just 54 yards on 17 carries, or why the passing game sputtered when McNeese State was daring Nebraska to throw the ball. Combine that with a defense that didn't create many big plays of its own, and it was a recipe for a close game, even with an FCS opponent.

"If you have a chance to put them away, you better put them away," Pelini said. "You have to step on their throat, and we didn't do that. We let them back into it. We had a couple more opportunities as the game went on to execute and put some distance between us, and once again we failed to do it. We were our own worst enemies multiple, multiple times in that football game."

According to Nebraska's captains, the Huskers didn't prepare well enough during the week to take care of business against McNeese State. Abdullah said he noticed during the week that focus seemed to be waning a bit heading into the game – was it players buying too much into the season opening 55-7 win over Florida Atlantic? Was Nebraska looking ahead to its trip to Fresno State?

Hard to say, but that's where the soul searching begins, Abdullah said.

"Football is a game that I love, that I have a lot of respect for, but the re-



"At the end of the day, we got out-coached, out-played, and like I said before, we were lucky to win the football game. This football team needs to take a good long look in the mirror, starting with me."

spect as a whole from the team needs to go up," Abdullah said. "Respect of the opponent, respect of our game plan, taking it seriously, and just executing. That all goes into respecting the game. I feel like our level of respect for the game this week was not good enough. It definitely showed. That's on me as a captain. I have to assist that as the week goes on, but I was reluctant to say something, and I promise that it is the last time that will happen."

If there's a positive to be taken out of an afternoon of chewed cuticles and heartburn, it's that Nebraska was humbled on Saturday. The Huskers begin a tough stretch of games – Fresno is no easy place to play despite the Bulldogs' start, and Miami will be coming to Lincoln the following weekend to make a statement.

Senior captain and cornerback Josh Mitchell said that Nebraska needs to show much more than it did Saturday if it expects to make any noise on the national stage.

"I don't feel like we're trying to prepare and be better than we've been over the last couple years," Mitchell said. "You go out there and play like that, I just see 9-4 all over again. Like I said, I don't want to do much talking about it. It's either put up or shut up." **N**

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Scouting Report



Fresno State Bulldogs

Fresno State, 0-2, sports longest home winning streak in college football. | DOUG GRIFFITHS

Fresno State is 0-2 on the young season, but the Bulldogs have faced two tough Pac-12 opponents on the road in nationally ranked USC and Utah.

The back-to-back losses to start the 2014 season mark the first time Fresno State has dropped consecutive games under coach Tim DeRuyter in his three seasons as the program's head coach.

With that said, you know Fresno State will bring its A game for Nebraska, especially with it being the Bulldogs' home opener.

TWO QUARTERBACK ROTATION

In both of its games, Fresno State has

used two quarterbacks – Brandon Connette and Brian Burrell.

Against Utah, Connette completed 16-of-24 passes for 177 yards and a touchdown, while Burrell was 8-of-16 for 106 yards with two TDs.

Neither quarterback threw an interception against Utah, which was a good sign considering they combined to throw four picks at USC.

STRUGGLING DEFENSE

Fresno State is having a difficult time stopping opponents.

The Bulldogs gave up 701 yards and 52 points to USC and then allowed Utah



THE VITALS

WHAT: #19 Nebraska @ Fresno State
WHEN/WHERE: at 9:30 p.m. CDT, Sept. 13 in Fresno, California (Bulldog Stadium capacity 41,031)

TV: CBS Sports Network.

Radio: The Husker Sports Network broadcasts the action to 27 statewide radio markets. KFAB (1110 AM) serves as the Omaha affiliate and KLIN (1400 AM) serves as the Lincoln affiliate, while KRVN (880 AM) is a third affiliate that reaches around the state. Join Greg Sharpe (play-by-play), Matt Davison (color and co-hosts Husker Game Day Pregame Show), Lane Grindle (sideline/post-game, co-hosts Husker Game Day), Steve Taylor (co-hosts Husker Game Day Show and Big Red Reaction Show) and Matt Coatney (hosts Big Red Reaction Show and helps anchor postgame studio coverage) for all the action. The game can also be heard live on Huskers.com and SIRIUS Satellite Radio.

COACHES: Nebraska: Bo Pelini (60-24 overall, 34-14 in the Big Ten, seven seasons). Fresno State: Tim DeRuyter (20-8 overall, 14-2 in the Mountain West Conference, three seasons).

SERIES: Nebraska leads 1-0.

Fresno State FAST FACTS

Location: Fresno, California

Enrollment: 23,060

All-Time Football Record: 577-392-27

Conference Championships: 27

Bowl Appearances: 25

All-America Selections: 117

Lettermen Returning/Lost: 37/16

Starters Returning/Lost: 16/9 (including specialists)

Offensive Formation: Spread

Defensive Formation: Multiple 3-4

DID YOU KNOW?

Fresno State has dropped 17-straight games to ranked opponents.

2014 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Result
Aug. 30	@ Southern Cal	L, 52-13
Sept. 6	@ Utah	L, 59-27
Sept. 13	Nebraska	
Sept. 20	Southern Utah	
Sept. 26	@ New Mexico	
Oct. 3	San Diego State	
Oct. 11	@ UNLV	
Oct. 17	@ Boise State	
Nov. 1	Wyoming	
Nov. 8	San Jose State	
Nov. 22	@ Nevada	
Nov. 29	Hawaii	



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRESNO STATE SPORTS INFORMATION

Above: Bulldog senior wide receiver and Biletnikoff Award candidate Josh Harper ranks No. 8 all-time in school annals with 144 career receptions. Left: Martez Waller rushed for 97 yards versus USC.



526 yards and 59 points.

Keep in mind, Fresno State is 13-2 under DeRuyter when holding opponents under 30 points and 13-3 when holding opponents under 400 yards of offense.

BEVY OF EXPERIENCE AT LINEBACKER

The Bulldogs returned all four of their starting linebackers from a year ago from their conference championship team.

Outside linebackers Ejiro Ederaine and Donavon Lewis played well against USC. Lewis had a career-high eight tackles and forced and recovered a fumble. Ederaine had six tackles, including two for loss.

Last year, Ederaine led the team and ranked third in the Mountain West with 16.5 tackles for loss.

OFFENSIVE LINE PRETTY STOUT

Last year Fresno State's offensive line helped pave the way for an offense that set 19 school offensive records.

It returned three starters from that unit and a fourth player who had started 11 games in the last two seasons.

The line has had a decent start to the 2014 campaign.

Against a talented USC defense, it opened holes in the running game as Bulldog backs averaged 4.8 yards per rush. The offensive line also only allowed one sack.

REMEMBER WHEN?

No. 10 Nebraska 42, Fresno State 29

Sept. 10, 2011 at Lincoln

Freshman Ameer Abdullah returned a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown after Fresno State got to within two points in

the fourth quarter to help the 10th-ranked Cornhuskers to victory.

Quarterback Taylor Martinez was big, too, as he broke a 46-yard touchdown run to put the game away.

It was Nebraska's big plays overall that were the difference. It had six plays from scrimmage of at least 38 yards.

Martinez rushed for 166 yards on 15 carries and a pair of touchdowns. He also passed for 219 yards and another score. Martinez had 385 yards of total offense, which was the second-most of his career.

Fresno State led 17-14 at halftime and 20-14 in the third quarter.

Bulldog quarterback Derek Carr was 20-of-41 for 254 yards.

Abdullah set a school record with 211 yards on five kick returns.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Fresno State has won 13-straight games at home, which is the now the longest active home streak in the country after South Carolina lost to Georgia in week one, Ohio State lost to Virginia Tech and Stanford lost to USC in week two.

- Only once in Coach Tim DeRuyter's three seasons leading Fresno State has his team not thrown for over 200 yards in a game (160 versus USC in the opener).

Last year Fresno State led the nation in passing, averaging 394.8 yards per game.

- Fresno State and Stanford are the only schools in the FBS that have ranked in the top 10 nationally in sacks in each of the past two seasons.

- Last season Fresno State only gave up 11 sacks in 13 games to rank sixth in the FBS.

Coach Tim DeRuyter

Resume:

Has a 62-27 record in eight seasons at McNeese State. Viator is a three-time finalist for the Eddie Robinson National Coach of



the Year Award (2013, 2007, 2006). He has coached the Cowboys to three Southland Conference Championships (2009, 2007, 2006) and is the only head coach in conference history to have a winning season every year (minimum eight seasons).

KNOW YOUR FOE

Marteze Waller, RB, 5-11, 209, Jr.



Rushed for 97 yards on 16 carries and scored both of Fresno State's touchdowns against USC in the season opener.

Josh Harper, WR, 6-1, 185, Sr.



Made six catches for 93 yards in the loss to Utah. He has 22 career touchdown receptions in 29 games played and needs one more to tie for the fifth most TD catches in school history.

Kyrie Wilson, ILB, 6-2, 238, Jr.



Set a new career-high when he recorded 13 tackles in the loss at USC in the opener. It was his second career game posting 10 or more tackles. Wilson also forced one fumble. Last season, Wilson tied for second on the team with 87 tackles starting all 13 games in his first season as a starter.

2013 RESULTS

(11-2 overall, 7-1 Mountain West)

Date	Opponent	Result
Aug. 29	Rutger	W, 52-51 (OT)
Sept. 7	Cal Poly	W, 41-25
Sept. 14	Colorado	Cancelled
Sept. 20	Boise State	W, 41-40
Sept. 28	@ Hawaii	L, 42-37
Oct. 5	@ Idaho	W, 61-14
Oct. 19	UNLV	W, 38-14
Oct. 26	@ San Diego State	W, 35-28 (OT)
Nov. 2	Nevada	W, 41-23
Nov. 9	@ Wyoming	W, 48-10
Nov. 23	New Mexico State	W, 69-28
Nov. 29	@ San Jose State	L, 62-52
Dec. 7	Utah State	W, 24-17
Dec. 21	USC #	L, 45-20
#Las Vegas Bowl		



BIGTEN BEAT | COMPILED BY DOUG GRIFFITHS

Tough times for Big Ten with Michigan Ohio State, Michigan State all losing



Nebraska players gather in the north endzone before the McNeese State game.

Any momentum the Big Ten may have gained from last year's Rose Bowl victory in its quest to reestablishing respectability in college football circles has evaporated in the first two weeks of this season.

First, Wisconsin had SEC power LSU on the ropes and collapsed and then in Week Two Michigan State held a second-half lead at Oregon, only to end up losing in the biggest game on its schedule this season.

As if the Spartan loss wasn't bad enough for the Big Ten, Michigan was embarrassed at Notre Dame, and Ohio State lost at home to Virginia Tech.

Plus, Nebraska needed a last-second touchdown to beat a FCS school in Lincoln, Purdue was blown out at home by

a Mid-American Conference school, and Iowa squeaked by Ball State in Iowa City thanks to a late score.

So go ahead, let the Big Ten bashing begin, if it hasn't already.

Who would've thought after two weeks Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State and Wisconsin would be sporting .500 records?

As a result, the Big Ten is going to draw its fair share of criticism now and should.

Following *Huskers Illustrated* recaps Week Two of football happenings around the Big Ten.

EAST DIVISION

INDIANA HOOSIERS

Indiana enjoyed an early week off after

EAST DIVISION

2014 Standings

Team	Overall	Conference
Maryland	2-0	0-0
*-Penn State	2-0	0-0
Rutgers	2-0	0-0
Indiana	1-0	0-0
Michigan	1-1	0-0
Michigan State	1-1	0-0
Ohio State	1-1	0-0

WEST DIVISION

Team	Overall	Conference
Illinois	2-0	0-0
Iowa	2-0	0-0
Minnesota	2-0	0-0
Nebraska	2-0	0-0
Purdue	1-1	0-0
Wisconsin	1-1	0-0
Northwestern	0-2	0-0

* - not eligible for postseason

Sept. 6 Results

Nebraska 31, McNeese State 24
 Notre Dame 31, Michigan 0
 Wisconsin 37, Western Illinois 3
 Central Michigan 38, Purdue 17
 Northern Illinois 23, Northwestern 15
 Minnesota 35, Middle Tenn. State 24
 Iowa 17, Ball State 13
 Illinois 42, Western Kentucky 34
 Virginia Tech 35, Ohio State 21
 Penn State 21, Akron 3
 Oregon 46, Michigan State 27
 Maryland 24, South Florida 17
 Rutgers 38, Howard 25
 Indiana IDLE

Sept. 13 Games

Nebraska @ Fresno State, 9:30 p.m.
 Kent State @ Ohio State, 11 a.m.
 Indiana @ Bowling Green, 11 a.m.
 West Virginia @ Maryland, 11 a.m.
 Miami (Ohio) @ Michigan, 2:30 p.m.
 Iowa State @ Iowa, 2:30 p.m.
 Minnesota @ TCU, 3 p.m.
 Illinois @ Washington, 3 p.m.
 Purdue vs. Notre Dame, 6:30 p.m.
 Penn State @ Rutgers, 7 p.m.
 IDLE: Michigan State, Northwestern, Wisconsin

its season opening victory against Indiana State. A few days later, IU found out that its next opponent – Bowling Green – would be without starting quarterback Matt Johnson will miss the rest of the season due to a hip injury.

During its off week, talk around the Hoosier program centered around the team's improved tackling in the opener. New defensive coordinator Brian Knorr said IU has modeled its tackling after the Seattle Seahawks. Knorr said the Hoosiers had a low number of missed tackles for an opening game.

MARYLAND TERRAPINS

So much for the theory of if you turn the ball over on the road you greatly reduce your chances of winning. Get this ... the Terrapins committed six turnovers in Tampa, yet somehow escaped with a seven-point victory over host South Florida.

C.J. Brown threw for two touchdowns and Avery Thompson blocked a punt in the end zone for a fourth-quarter score.

Maryland's defense was good, too, as it limited USF running back Marion Mack, who entered the day as the nation's leading rusher, to 73 yards on 22 carries.

MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

As if losing to Notre Dame by 31 points wasn't bad enough, the Wolverines may be without their talented wide receiver Devin Funchess, who was injured in the fourth quarter and had to be helped to the bench.

Funchess appeared to injure his knee during a play in front of Michigan's bench.

Wolverine coach Brady Hoke was asked about the injury in the postgame press conference, but didn't give any details.

Funchess' injury didn't look good and he could miss significant time, which needless to say would be a huge blow to Michigan.

MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

The Spartans led by nine points in

the third quarter, but watched Oregon score four unanswered touchdowns to beat No. 7 Michigan State on an unusually hot evening in Eugene (temperatures approached 100 degrees).

MSU had trouble containing Ducks quarterback Marcus Mariota, who finished with 318 yards passing and three touchdowns and now may be the early frontrunner for the Heisman Trophy.

The loss snapped the Spartans' 11-game winning streak.

MSU quarterback Connor Cook threw for 343 yards and two touchdowns, but he was picked off twice.

RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS

The Scarlet Knights improved to 2-0 thanks to Gary Nova throwing four touchdown passes and halfback Paul James recording his second-straight three touchdown game.

After trailing 10-0, Rutgers scored 31 unanswered points.

The Scarlet Knights' defense did allow 437 yards, including 269 yards rushing.

OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

The biggest home crowd ever saw its beloved Buckeyes lose to Virginia Tech, marking the first regular-season loss in Urban Meyer's tenure in Columbus.

The crowd of 107,517 witnessed a sloppy game. The two teams combined for 17 penalties for 169 yards and six turnovers.

It was Hokie cornerback Donovan Riley's pick-six in the final minute of the game that sealed it.

Buckeye freshman quarterback J.T. Barrett was just 9-of-29 for 219 yards with a touchdown and was intercepted three times. Barrett was sacked seven times and was hurried on numerous other occasions.

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

For a chunk of their game against Akron, the Nittany Lions looked like they were suffering jetlag from their trip to Ireland a week early.

Penn State led just 7-3 in the third quarter, but scored the game's final 14

points to prevail.

Nittany Lion quarterback Christian Hackenberg was 22-of-36 passing for 319 yards with three touchdowns and two interceptions.

Hackenberg guided an offense that amassed 425 yards

It was a game that featured 82 passes and 527 passing yards compared to 175 yards rushing.

WEST DIVISION

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI

Sure, Illinois is 2-0, but the Illini fans probably don't feel overjoyed. Why? Because their team only beat Youngstown State 28-17 in the opener and followed that up with a 42-34 victory over Western Kentucky.

Had it not been for a 21-point fourth quarter, the Illini would've lost.

Illini signal caller Wes Lunt had a huge day, throwing for 456 yards on 35-of-50 passing.

Illinois' defense struggled, allowing 400 yards, and it had a tough time running the ball as it was held to only 64 yards on the ground.

IOWA HAWKEYES

Thanks to Iowa's fourth-quarter rally, it saved itself from an embarrassing home loss to Ball State.

It was Jake Duzey catching a go-ahead 12-yard touchdown pass from Jake Rudock with a minute left that saved the Hawkeyes.

Rudock threw for a career-high 322 yards and was 9-of-11 passing on Iowa's two scoring drives in the final six minutes.

The Hawkeyes have missed three field goals early in the season.

MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

Minnesota has taken care of business against two inferior opponents to start the season.

Against Middle Tennessee, Gopher running back David Cobb ran for 220 yards on 29 carries and two touchdowns.

Minnesota quarterback Mitch Leidner was just 5-of-11 through the air

How Nebraska's 2014 Opponents Fared?



FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Result: L, Alabama 41-0
Up Next: Tulsa
Current Record: 0-2



MCNEESE STATE
Result: L, Nebraska 31-24
Up Next: Prairie View A&M
Record: 0-1



FRESNO STATE
Result: L, Utah 59-27
Up Next: Nebraska
Record: 0-2



MIAMI
Result: W, Florida A&M 41-7
Up Next: Arkansas State
Record: 1-1



ILLINOIS
Result: W, W. Kentucky 42-34
Up Next: Washington
Current Record: 2-0



MICHIGAN STATE
Result: L, Oregon 46-27
Up Next: Eastern Michigan
Record: 1-1



NORTHWESTERN
Result: L, N. Illinois 23-15
Up Next: Western Illinois
Record: 0-2



RUTGERS
Result: W, Howard 38-25
Up Next: Penn State
Record: 2-0



PURDUE
Result: L, Cen. Michigan 38-17
Up Next: Notre Dame
Current Record: 1-1



WISCONSIN
Result: W, Western Illinois 37-3
Up Next: Bowling Green
Record: 1-1



MINNESOTA
Result: W, Mid. Tenn. State 35-24
Up Next: TCU
Record: 2-0



IOWA
Result: W, Ball State 17-13
Up Next: Iowa State
Record: 2-0



for 67 yards, a touchdown and an interception. He tweaked his knee and was noticeably limping in the fourth quarter.

NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

For the first time under Coach Pat Fitzgerald, Northwestern is 0-2 after suffering a home loss to Northern Illinois.

As if their record was tough enough to swallow, the Wildcats may have lost starting quarterback Trevor Siemian. He suffered an apparent right leg injury after being hit late with 3:15 remaining in the game.

PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

Purdue felt good about itself last week beating Western Michigan, but the Boilermaker found out just how far their program still has to go as Central Michigan drubbed them, 38-17, in West Lafayette.

The Boilermakers turned the ball over three times and made Chippewas running back Thomas Rawls look like an All-American. He ran for 155 yards on 31 carries and two touchdowns.

Meanwhile, Purdue quarterback Danny Etling struggled, getting picked off twice and barely completing 50 percent of his passes. As a result, Coach Darrell Hazell inserted Austin Appleby in the second half.

WISCONSIN BADGERS

The Badgers bounced back from their disappointing season-opening loss to LSU by beating up on FCS member Western Illinois.

Wisconsin quarterback Tanner McIlvoy threw three touchdown passes.

The Badgers only led 9-3 at halftime, but scored four unanswered second-half touchdowns to improve to 1-1 on the year.



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Huskers Illustrated's Projected Nebraska Depth Chart

DEFENSE

P/Holder

Sam Foltz
Mauro Bondi
Johnny Stanton

LS

Josh Faulkenberry
Paul Kelly

WILL

Zaire Anderson
Courtney Love

FS

Nate Gerry
Zach Stovall

SS

Corey Cooper
Anthony Ridder

NICKEL

Byerson Cockrell
Josh Kalu

PR

DeMornay Pierson-El
Kenny Bell

MIKE

Josh Banderas
Trevor Roach

BUCK

David Santos
Austin Williams

CB

Jonathan Rose
Daniel Davie

WDE

Randy Gregory
Jack Gangwish

NT

Vincent Valentine
Kevin Maurice

DT

Maliek Collins
Kevin Williams

SDE

Greg McMullen
Marcus Newby

CB

Josh Mitchell
Chris Jones

WRX

Kenny Bell
Sam Burtch

LT

Alex Lewis
David Knevel

LG

Jake Cotton
Chongo Kondolo

C

Mark Pelini
Givens Price

RG

Mike Moudy
Givens Price

RT

Zach Sterup
Givens Price

TE

Cethan Carter
Sam Cotton

WRZ

Alonzo Moore
Taariq Allen

WRA

Jordan Westerkamp
Lane Hovey

KOS

Mauro Bondi
Drew Brown

QB

Tommy Armstrong Jr.
Ryker Fyfe

IB

Ameer Abdullah
Imani Cross

KR

Kenny Bell
Alonzo Moore

PK

Drew Brown
Mauro Bondi

FB

Andy Janovich
Mitch McCann

OFFENSE



Darren Ivy
(4-3, 6-8)



Mike Schaefer
(4-3, 9-5)



Michael Bruntz
(5-2, 10-4)



Bob Hamar
(4-3, 7-7)



Terry Douglass
(4-3, 9-5)



Doug Griffiths
(4-3, 9-5)



Lanny Holstein
(5-2, 10-4)

Last Week, Season

Nebraska vs Fresno State	NU 34-17	NU 42-24	NU 40-24	NU 31-17	NU 27-24	NU 31-24	NU 31-21
Georgia vs. South Carolina	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	South Carolina	Georgia	Georgia
Iowa vs. Iowa State	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa State
Arkansas vs. Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech
Minnesota vs. TCU	TCU	Minnesota	TCU	Minnesota	TCU	Minnesota	TCU
Tennessee vs. Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
UCLA vs. Texas	UCLA	UCLA	Texas	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA



SOUTHEAST LINCOLN

0 miles

Foster switches to defense to add depth



THERE WAS AN OPENING, AND JERALD FOSTER TOOK IT. HE CAME TO NEBRASKA AS AN OFFENSIVE LINEMAN, A HIGHLY TOUTED ONE AT THAT, BUT WHEN THE HUSKERS HAD A RASH OF INJURIES

AND TRANSFERS DECIMATE IN INSIDE OF ITS DEFENSIVE LINE, FOSTER SAW THAT AS AN OPPORTUNITY.

The coaches were scrambling with a few weeks left in fall camp to find some added depth on the defensive line, and Foster thought he could add it, so he switched over from offense to defense without hesitation.

“We’re just taking a look at Jerald over there,” Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. “He’s obviously a tremendous athlete. He was playing guard, but when Kevin Williams went down, it got me thinking, ‘build our depth over there.’ I talked to Jerald about it and he was all for it.”

Maliek Collins, Vincent Valentine, Kevin Maurice, and Kevin Williams are each in front of Foster on the depth chart, but Foster isn’t in that group to start over anybody. He’s there just in case.

“Long-term wise he’s going to be an offensive lineman unless he chooses not to be,” Pelini said. “Right now he can help us on the defensive side of the ball, especially with what he’s shown the last two days.”

If Williams’ injury in fall camp would have been more serious or if another tackle were to go down, Nebraska would have to make a decision on Foster. As it stands, he’s a true freshman with four years of eligibility left and a redshirt season at his

disposal.

“I’m not 100 percent sure what we’re going to do with him, but he’s going to keep working,” defensive coordinator John Papuchis said. “I know it’s important to him to keep getting better, and we’ll just let it play out how much he plays or not over the next couple weeks.”

If Foster isn’t needed, he’ll most likely move back to the offense next season, and Nebraska would like him to have four seasons of eligibility at that spot.

They’d like him to redshirt this year because he’s a little behind the other players on the offensive and defensive lines, having not spent 100 percent of his time with either group.

“He’s got a little ways to go, but it’s not lack of effort or anything on his part,” Papuchis said. “For us, we have to think about how much playing time is worth his year.”

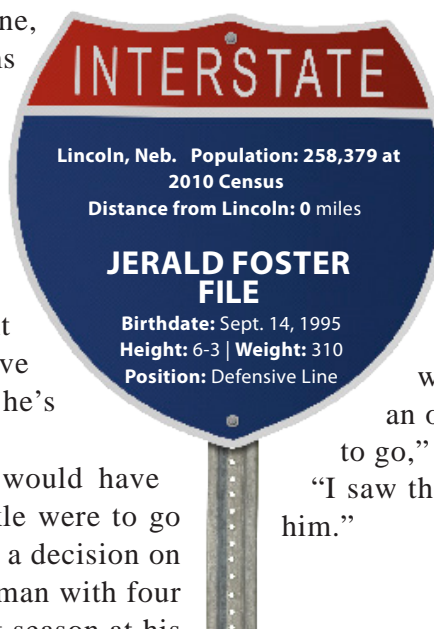
For Foster, sitting the pine for a year may be the right thing, but it will be different for a kid that was all-state in high school and started for Lincoln Southeast throughout his career.

He’ll have his older brother, Husker tight end Trey Foster, to help him through that though.

The elder, less recruited Foster, walked-on in 2012 because he wanted a chance to play with his brother again.

“I knew that my brother had an opportunity to play here as well, and I really wanted to go D-1 and play with him because I knew he would have an opportunity to go anywhere he wanted to go,” the elder Foster said.

“I saw this as my chance to keep playing with him.”



~ Story by Lanny Holstein



Michael Bruntz/Huskers Illustrated

Jerald "DJ" Foster has made the switch to defensive lineman to help with depth at that position.

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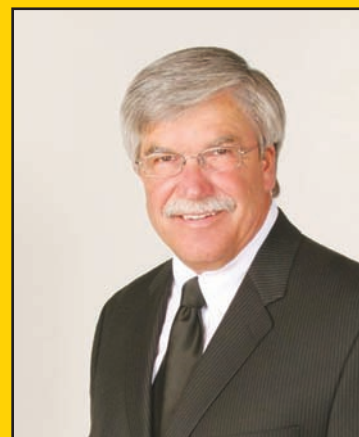
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dennis@slamahomes.com
http://www.slamahomes.com

MATT ANKERSON



Real Estate Agent
Home Real Estate Pine Lake
7211 S. 27th St
Lincoln, NE 68512
402-430-2455 (C)
402-436-3232 (O)
matt.ankerson@homerealestate.com
www.homerealestate.com/mattankerson

JOHN FINK



Real Estate Agent
Home Real Estate North
5901 N 27th St
Lincoln, NE 68512
402-429-9598 (C)
402-323-8794 (O)
john.fink@homerealestate.com
www.homerealestate.com/johnfink



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MLS.

Catching up with **STEVE TAYLOR**

Quarterback 1985-88

By Butch Rasmussen/Huskers Illustrated

Steve Taylor grew up in Fresno, California and attended Edison High School until his junior year. He never lost a football game at Fresno from age 10 through 16. He moved to San Diego Lincoln High School when his Edison coach, Ray Hooper, moved to San Diego Lincoln to take a new job there.

Those days back in Fresno seem like ages ago as the former Husker All-American quarter is now living the good life in Lincoln as a successful real estate agent with a history of success in every endeavor.

When Taylor graduated from Lincoln High School in San Diego, California in 1984 he had collected an impressive number of the school's passing, rushing and total offense records. Among the most impressive were Taylor's rushing average of 11.2 and his single season total offense record of 3,211 yards, both previously held by Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Allen. Taylor's No. 3 jersey was retired at the school.

Four years later Taylor finished his career as a Cornhusker owning a number of passing, rushing and total offense records. Maybe most impressive were 10 pass completions for 5 touchdowns in a 44-33 win versus third ranked UCLA in 1987. UCLA quarterback Troy Aikman was the second best quarter-

back on the field that day.

In high school Taylor was a four-sport athlete grinding it out one season after another in football, basketball, soccer and baseball.

As a senior at San Diego Lincoln he was recruited by Husker assistant coach George Darlington to play football for the Huskers. He was also drafted by the New York Yankees baseball team.

Then came the call. Husker head coach Tom Osborne wanted to visit Taylor's home to talk with Taylor and his mother. Osborne's visit sealed the deal for Taylor and his mother.

After an impressive freshman season for the Huskers, Taylor stepped into the varsity starting job as a sophomore and became a three-year starter.

"Our nationally televised game against the Florida State Seminoles was my coming out game. It was the first game of the 1986 season and my first game as a starter," Taylor said. "That



Former NU quarterback Steve Taylor returns to his hometown of Fresno this weekend as a broadcaster for the Husker Sports Network.

Huskers Illustrated Archives

game really put me on the map.”

He passed for 130 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 139 yards in just 12 carries and two more scores in Nebraska’s dismantling of the powerful Seminoles 34-17.

Taylor ran Osborne’s option offense to perfection that day and put up an 11.6 yard average every time he kept the ball.

“It was an outstanding game for us on a national scale,” Taylor said.

That performance brought him recognition from *Sports Illustrated* as national offensive player-of-the-week.

Taylor finished his Husker career with 62 total offensive touchdowns and nearly 5,000 yards of total offense. He also walked away with All-America honors and a Bachelor’s degree in Communications.

“I’m very proud of my legacy at Nebraska,” he said.

Taylor was a good student especially in Speech class 365.

“I met Stephanie Briggs in speech class when we were juniors at UNL” Taylor said.

“The class was ‘Powers of Persuasion.’ I learned well and that’s why she’s Stephanie Taylor today.”

The Taylor’s have 3 daughters. Sydney is 19 and studying nursing at UNL, Skylar, 16 is a junior at Lincoln Southeast and a varsity soccer starter every year to date, and Samantha is 12 and attends Pound Middle School playing soccer and volleyball.

After his Husker football career Taylor signed a four-year contract in February with the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League but in testament to his remarkable athletic abilities the NFL’s Indianapolis Colts drafted him anyway in April of that year. In addition to his work with Edmonton he also played twice for the Calgary Stampeders.

During his career in the CFL he played in three Grey Cups and was Grey Cup Champion in 1992 with Calgary.

After his lengthy CFL career he’s been an independent agent for Home Real Estate in Lincoln for the past 23 years.

And, as in everything he’s done since the

age of 15, he’s been highly successful in the real estate business also. In his first year he was recognized as newcomer of the year and he frequently ranks in the top 1 percent nationally of Home Real Estate sales agents.

“I’ve had a lot of help from a lot of good people along the way,” Taylor offered. “Nobody does it alone.”

Taylor will be in Fresno as part of the Husker broadcast team and plans to see his mother, sister and many old friends.

He shares the Husker broadcasting booth every game day with Greg Sharpe, Matt Davison and others to send the Husker broadcasts out to the masses.

He broadcasts the pre-game and wrap up shows.

At 47 years old it’s an exciting time in Steve Taylor’s life.

His hard work and commitment to excellence has paid off in football and in life and of course he always has those exciting memories of All-America success as a Husker quarterback more than a quarter of a century ago.

Advertising Section

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IN THE Red Zone

Tagge takes the title of Wisconsin's best Husker

By Kalani Simpson

Huskers Illustrated

You may or may not have done well in geography in school, but now we're giving you another chance. Husker geography. That's right – this is the perfect subject for tailgate arguments, bar bets or radio drive-time talk shows (you're welcome).

It's time to answer that age-old question: Who is the best all-time Husker from each state? In the last issue, *Huskers Illustrated* looked at the best players to come out of Alabama and New Mexico. This week we move on to Wisconsin.

**Husker
Geography
Part 16**

WISCONSIN

Jerry Tagge

Quarterback, 1969-71

Before Tommie Frazier, the photo in every Husker Room in the state was Jerry Tagge, reaching over the goal line to win it all.

The quarterback-sneak touchdown was the game winner in the 1971 Orange Bowl victory over LSU, and the Huskers had their first national title. Tagge had a Frazier-Brook Berringer situation with Van Brownson for a time – Brownson was that good, as Berringer was. But then, Tagge was Tommie-good, and at some point, Tagge became the man.

He had everything. He had the passing arm and the poise to direct a pro-style passing offense. He'd hit Johnny and Guy the Fly, or deliver it to the back out of the backfield. He could run the two-minute offense. In the Game of the Century, he kept the Huskers marching when it mattered most.

He could sprint out, then keep sprinting. He could run the option, keep it, and dare linebackers to get in his way. There was no hook sliding, in those days. Mostly, he was a winner. He was the one who made Nebraskans winners. He lifted a whole state, for good, forever. He did it as he was reaching over the goal line – reaching, for No. 1.

Dan Schneiss

Fullback, 1968-70

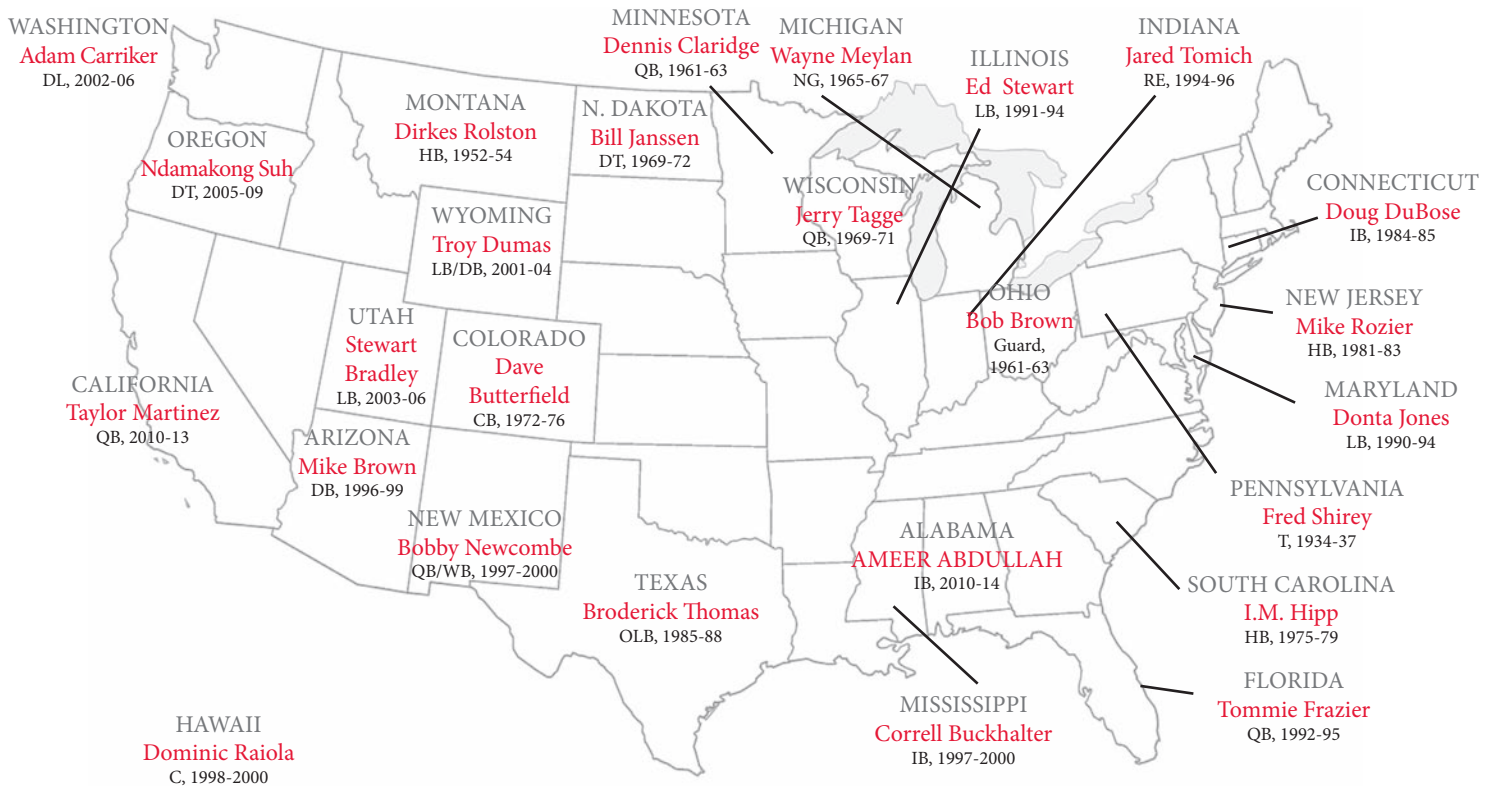
The fullback, and captain, on that first national championship team. Hit so hard they called him "Baby Bull."

Quarterback Jerry Tagge led the Huskers to their first national title in 1971.



HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED ARCHIVES

All-Time Greatest Huskers From Each State



Jerry Tagge carries the ball against Oklahoma.



HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED ARCHIVES

HuskerJ.com chronicles Nebraska memorabilia

By Darren Ivy

Huskers Illustrated

Since its launch in 1999, huskerj.com has grown into one of the largest virtual collections of Husker memorabilia around.

That was the exactly the goal that Husker J – AKA Jeff Jones – had when came up with the idea back in 1997, while searching for information on an Ezra Brooks Harry Husker decanter his wife, Alecia, had given him as a gift.

“I had a hard time finding any information on the decanter and any other collectibles and I also was working on my MBA through Creighton at the time and took a web design class as part of it,” recalled Jones, who now works in STRATCOM at Offutt Air Base in Omaha. “I put two and two together and decided to develop a memorabilia reference site for Husker memorabilia.”

Husker J’s collection is broken into the following categories - brewery, ceramics, coins, decanters, die casts, food and drink, glasses, toys, print items and miscellaneous items.

Jones, who grew up on a small farm south of Wymore, said after he received the decanter in 1996, he was hooked.

One of his favorite finds from going to garage sales, flea markets, antique shops, and occasionally on E-bay, is five sawdust dolls from the 1941 Rose Bowl.

“I found a guy that had five for sale and bought all five,” Jones said. “I traded one for a handful of items and sold three others over the years, keeping one for my collection. I haven’t see another one in as good of condition as mine.”

An item that is not displayed on the site, but that holds special meaning to Jones is a Husker T-Shirt autographed by Tom Osborne when he visited Jones’ base in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti in 1995, following his second national title.

“He came on a Fellowship of Christian Athletes visit to the troops,” said Jones, who served in the Army for 20 years. “I missed the event as I was out on patrol with my calvary troop at the time, but a military intelligence specialist deployed with us happened to attend. He grew up in Lincoln just a few doors down from Coach Osborne and knew I was otherwise occupied, so he took one of his T-Shirts with him and had it autographed for me. That was pretty special of him to do that for me.”

Jones, 48, said his collecting has slowed down, especially with one child in college and another headed next year.



Jeff Jones shows off his collection of Husker items displayed in his basement.

DARREN IVY/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

“I try to only pick up special items or things that I know are worth more than they are priced,” Jones said. “I do pick up program from each home game and bowl game programs each year, along with items directly linked to a season or particular game, like commemorative coins, special edition mugs with season schedules, etc.”

Other collectors have gotten involved with his site, which has enabled his virtual collection to grow.

“I only own about 25 percent of what is on display,” Jones said. “I’ve got a core of about 12 to 15 frequent contributors and about 75 overall. Doyle Lyon, who had a 1923 season ticket mailer in the finals of the Huskers.com memorabilia contest is a collector buddy of mine who has contributed quite a few items. I got to meet him in person while attending training in the Washington D.C. area in 2005 and traded a couple items with him.”

Before he was a collector, Jones was involved with the Nebraska football program in a couple other ways.

“My older brother sold stadium backrests in Memorial Stadium in 1978 and he was able to get another brother and I on his crew for the Missouri game, my first game in Memorial Stadium,” Jones said. “It was a great game, but a terrible outcome. I was on the crew myself from 1984 to 1988 and never missed a game those years.

“I was a member of the Corn Cobs during



Jeff Jones updates his huskerj.com website.

DARREN IVY/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

the 1985 season and got to wear Harry Husker on the sidelines for a couple games. Just before the start of the Oregon game, the TV crew had the Duck and I spar for a quick sideline shot during the game. He has a soft costume like our Herbie Huskers and could move a lot quicker than I could in that heavy fiberglass head.”

Jones’ nephew, Dwight Jones, was a walk-on lineman in 2009-10 before finishing up at Peru State, and other nephew Matt Jones was on the Nebraska baseball team in 2013 before being signed by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Sept. 14, 1968

Sophomore Paul Rogers connected on a 51-yard field goal with 21 seconds remaining to lift Nebraska to a 13-10 season-opening victory over Wyoming. The Cowboys built an early 10-0 lead before Rogers made a 26-yard field goal with 1:57 left in the first quarter. The Cornhuskers tied the score at 10-10 on Ernie Sigler's 17-yard touchdown pass to Jim McFarland with 10:46 to play.

Sept. 15, 1979

I.M. Hipp rushed for 167 yards and three TDs as No. 8-ranked Nebraska broke a 14-14 halftime tie to pull away for a 35-14 victory over Utah State. The Huskers finished with 455 yards rushing, including 91 rushing yards from transfer Jarvis Redwine in his NU debut. Jeff Quinn rushed for 112 yards, marking the program's first quarterback to top the 100-yard mark in rushing since 1964.

Sept. 16, 1989

Future NFL quarterback Scott Mitchell of Utah put a scare into No. 4-ranked Nebraska, completing 26 of 44 pass attempts for 297 yards and four TDs, but the Huskers held on for a 42-30 victory. NU was aided by three interceptions, including one that was returned six yards for a score by Mike Croel. Ken Clark rushed for 130 yards and fullback Bryan Carpenter had 102 yards rushing on five carries for the Big Red.

Sept. 17, 1994

Nebraska provided an early glimpse of things to come as the No. 2-ranked Cornhuskers dominated No. 13 UCLA 49-21 at Memorial Stadium. In a postgame interview, Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier said he and his teammates were motivated by comments from UCLA's players in regard to the team's previous meeting. One season before, the Huskers edged the Bruins 14-13 at Pasadena, California.

"I think they did more talking than they did preparing for us," Frazier told the *Associated Press*. "All week long in the paper they were saying we were lucky to win last year. I think we were the better team last year and the better team this year."

NU gained 484 of its 555 total yards on the ground – the most rushing yards allowed by UCLA in the modern era. The Huskers also tied the mark for the most points scored against the Bruins in head coach Terry Donahue's first 19 seasons as head coach.

Although I-back Lawrence Phillips led Nebraska with 178 yards rushing on 19 carries, Donahue heaped praise on Frazier.

The junior quarterback, who developed a blood clot in his leg soon after that cost him the remainder of the regular season, had just 29 yards rushing and was 5-of-11 passing for 59 yards against UCLA, but was regarded by Donahue as the driving force in NU's offense.

"I made the comment before the game that I thought Tommie Frazier was in an elite class of athletes in college football," Donahue said. "After having played him this year on AstroTurf, I probably feel stronger about my belief than before the game. He's a Michael Jordan-type player that just makes such a difference in a game."

Frazier had a second-quarter 12-yard TD run and followed it with a two-point conversion run, helping Nebraska lead 28-7 at halftime.

"I saw fear in their eyes," Frazier said of UCLA defenders. "A couple of linebackers looked at me like, 'What play are they going to run now to get a big gain?'"

Sept. 18, 2004

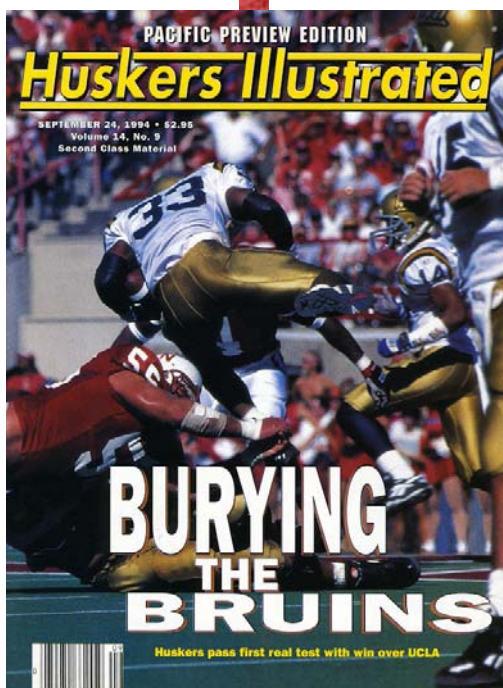
One week after a surprising 21-17 home loss to Southern Miss, Nebraska used a strong start on its way to a 24-17 road victory over Pitt in a game played at Heinz Field, despite flooding in the Pittsburgh area due to heavy rainfall. The Huskers scored all their points in the game's first 25 minutes. Linebacker Barrett Ruud had eight tackles, including two for loss, as NU's defense limited the Panthers to 258 yards of total offense.

Sept. 19, 2009

Tyrod Taylor's 11-yard TD pass to Dyrell Roberts with 21 seconds remaining helped No. 13-ranked Virginia Tech rally for a 16-15 victory over No. 19 Nebraska in Blacksburg. The Huskers appeared to be on the verge of snapping the Hokies' 31-game non-conference winning streak at Lane Stadium, leading 15-10 with 1:44 to play. However, NU yielded an 81-yard pass play on a busted coverage, setting up the winning score.

Sept. 20, 1958

Trailing 7-0 in the fourth quarter, 163-pound Nebraska sophomore halfback Pat Fischer scored on a 92-yard kickoff return and Carroll Zaruba added the game-winning TD from 1 yard out as the Huskers upset heavily favored Penn State 14-7 before a crowd of 26,966 at Memorial Stadium. After scoring 14 points in the fourth quarter against the Nittany Lions, NU went on to score just 13 combined points in its next four games on the way to a 3-7 season.



WOMEN'S SOCCER

The Nebraska soccer team (3-2) raced out to an early 1-0 lead, but No. 20 Oklahoma responded with a second-half goal and Madison Kinzer's game winner in double overtime sealed a 2-1 win for the Sooners Friday night.

Junior Katie Kraeutner scored a tap-in for the Huskers in the sixth minute off an assist from Hannah Dittmar to put NU on the board first. The goal marked Kraeutner's first of the season.

The Huskers took 11 shots, six of which were on goal, while Oklahoma compiled 13 shots, five on goal. NU goalkeeper Kelly Schatz earned three saves over 110 minutes.

In the 71st minute, Oklahoma scored its first goal as Ayana O'Neal knocked it in off an assist from Laura Rayfield. The score stood in a 1-1 tie after 90 minutes and stayed that way after the first overtime.

Nebraska controlled on offense at the start of the second overtime, taking four consecutive corner kicks, but failed to convert. The Sooners took their first lead of the match with the game winner by Kinzer in the 107th minute.

WOMEN'S GOLF

The Nebraska women's golf team opens the 2014 season hosting the Chip-N Club Invitational this Monday and Tuesday.

Nebraska will try to defend its 2013 Chip-N Club championship against a tournament field that includes Big Ten Conference counterpart Ohio State. Nebraska schools Creighton, Nebraska-Omaha and Bellevue are also in the field along with Missouri, Missouri State, North Dakota State, South Dakota and Wichita State.

Coach Robin Krapfl opens her 28th season without any seniors on the roster. However, a three-player junior class that includes

Jaylyn Odermann and the Huskers came up short in a 2-1 double-overtime loss to No. 20 Oklahoma.



DARREN IVY/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Cassie Deeg, Cassidy Stelzmliller and Morgan Smejkal, is expected to provide strong leadership for the young Husker squad.

Deeg, who finished with 76.16 stroke average as a sophomore for NU, is the defending Chip-N Club Invitational champion. Last year she produced a career-best three-under-par 213 (72-71-70) to claim her first career tournament title. Her 54-hole score was the best by an individual on a par-72 course at the Chip-N Club since Kent State's Martina Gillen fired a tournament-record 210 in 2001.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Nebraska cross country team opened up its 2014 season Friday night at the Augustana Twilight in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The men's team dominated, winning the meet, and the NU women were also much improved from a year ago, finishing in second in the 22-team field. Coach David Harris was impressed with

how both teams performed in their season opening race.

"Both the men's and women's teams had great races tonight," he said. "It was nice to see some of our new runners perform at a high level. The focus is getting better in the Big Ten, we still have a ways to go but this was a great start."

Sophomore Joe Harter led the way for the men's team, finishing second overall at 18:29.09 in the men's four mile race. Junior Matt Bloch also performed well, landing in fifth with a time of 18:44.46.

Harris was impressed with the confidence Harter showed during the race, noting that Harter has the ability to run well in the front pack.

"Joe is running with a lot of confidence right now, he certainly tried to win it tonight but just got out dueled at the end," Harris said. "He hung on and stuck in for second, I think Joe felt good about his race and I did too."

Runners Jonah Heng (eighth,

18:51.45), Connor Gibson (12th, 19:02.18), Austin Post (17th, 19:12.24) and Alec Sery (19:22.15) rounded out the Nebraska men's contingent.

On the women's side, sophomore Anna Peer led the Husker cross country team, as she finished second with a time of 15:55.48 in the three mile race. Harris was not surprised with Peer's performance.

"Anna got out and she pushed the pace in the early part of the race, giving herself the lead," Harris said. "She tried to push away, but a USD girl caught her. I couldn't be more happy with her performance, she is really starting to solidify herself as our top runner."

Junior Shawnice Williams was the second Husker to cross the finish line, finishing 11th with a time of 16:57.30. Freshman Bonnie Smith finished 15th in her first collegiate cross country competition, with a time of 17:03.06.

Coaches Corner

with Scott Jacobson
Head Women's Tennis Coach



Huskers Illustrated reporter Lanny Holstein recently visited with Nebraska women's tennis coach Scott Jacobson, who is entering his 24th season, to talk about his team's fall season, which gets underway on Sept. 12 at the Racquet Club Invitational in Midland, Texas.

HI: What kind of team do you have this year?

SJ: We have more experience, and we have some kids that were hurt a little bit last year that are in the process of getting stronger, so that should help. If we can just get them healthy, and the addition of Mackenna Maddox, a transfer from BYU, has really impressed. I think she is going to play an important role both in singles and potentially in doubles."

HI: Mary Weatherholt has done well on the professional circuit. Does she come around much?

SJ: She came back last spring before we started our team in January, Maggy (Lehmicke) would have a better idea of when exactly it was, maybe it was in the fall. She came back and talked to the team about her experience and what she is doing now. And then, actually, she was just back a couple weeks ago practicing and visiting a few friends here. She's doing great, but she's been through a lot. She had another torn ACL injury this past year.

HI: How important is it for the program to have people like Mary who go on to have success after college?

SJ: Well, I think it helps the university. When you can put something up on Huskers.com that says she just won a \$10,000 tournament in doubles and got to the finals in singles, she continues to grow and develop her world ranking, those things show that you can come to Nebraska and develop your game.

HI: What will be the biggest advantage of the new tennis training center?

SJ: It's just going to be so close. It will be right here on campus, and so your ability to work with kids one-on-one more often will be easier. They won't be taking 30 minutes out of their day just to travel to and from a club. That alone will allow people to come out for an hour in the morning, 8-9 a.m., whatever it is."

HI: Have you been asking for a facility like this for a while?

SJ: For about 25 years now, absolutely. I told Shawn (Eichorst) when he got here, I think I've sat in two separate tenure plans that had tennis in it, and both of them managed to go away in that tenure's period of time. This is the third go around, and he managed to get it done in less than two years as our athletic director. I'm pretty thankful and grateful for his commitment and knowing that there is need."

This Week



Husker Athletics

Friday, Sept. 12

Women's Tennis

Racket Club Invite in Midland, Texas

Volleyball

Denver at Bob Devaney Sports Center at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 13

Volleyball

Colgate at Bob Devaney Sports Center at 7 p.m.

Football

Fresno State at 9:30 p.m. at Fresno, Calif.

Women's Tennis

Racket Club Invite in Midland, Texas

Sunday, Sept. 14

Women's Tennis

Racket Club Invite in Midland, Texas

Women's Soccer

Illinois at Nebraska Soccer Field at 1 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 15

Women's Golf

Minnesota Invitational at Minneapolis, Minn.

Tuesday, Sept. 16

Women's Golf

Minnesota Invitational at Minneapolis, Minn.

Wednesday, Sept. 17

Volleyball

Creighton at Bob Devaney Sports Center at 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 19

Men's Tennis

Baylor Fall Invitational at Waco, Texas

Women's Tennis

Missouri Invitational at Kansas City, Mo.

Swimming

Scarlet vs. Cream Intr Squad Meet at 4 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20

Cross Country

Woody Greeno at Pioneer's Park at 10 a.m.

Volleyball

Texas at Devaney Center at 2 p.m.

Nebraska sophomore Caroline Flynn battles a Butler player during the Huskers's 1-0 victory earlier this season.



MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



Flynn' High

Sophomore midfielder blazes way back from injury

Story By Darren Ivy

Coming off a serious knee injury just over a year ago, one might think that sophomore Caroline Flynn would still be working to find her groove. That is not the case at all as Flynn appears to be even a step faster and fully healthy as she has returned from a torn anterior cruciate ligament and torn lateral cruciate ligament in her knee.

In just five games this season, Flynn has equaled her point production from her first two seasons at Nebraska with two goals and an assist.

"It's just awesome after going through a year of recovery with my ACL and then to come out with these girls, who are so supportive, and to have more goals than the last two years and even higher expectations," Flynn said. "I honestly couldn't imagine a better start, just to be able to help the team."

It was a long journey for Flynn to get back to where she is at this season.

For about seven months of 2013 and 2014, Flynn spent more time in the training room than at her own place.

Following her freak injury at soccer practice on Sept. 5, 2013 in which she tore her ACL and LCL, it took several

weeks for the swelling to go down enough for doctors to perform surgery. After that, she had two months without being able to walk on her leg. Another three months passed before she was really able to work out and fully begin rehab.

"I had a lot of setbacks along the way," Flynn said. "With a serious knee injury I knew I had to work that much harder to not only get back to where I was before but to be better. It's what drove me everyday."

Flynn said her leg started to feel better about May, nearly eight months after the injury.

"I did a ton of conditioning all summer, and fall practice was the first time I had any contact," Flynn said.

Flynn still wears a knee brace as a precaution, but insists she is completely recovered.

"I have heard too many stories about people who take that

brace off and then it happens again,” Flynn said. “I figure I might as well do everything I can to prevent another injury.”

Teammates Katie Kreutner and Jaylyn Odermann have had a front-row seat to Flynn’s recovery as they have roomed with her the last two years.

When Flynn initially couldn’t walk, they drove her around to her classes and helped her do the things she was unable to do. They also helped keep her spirits up while the team forged on to one of its best seasons in school history.

“It was pretty devastating,” Odermann recalled. “No one likes to have that type of injury, obviously.”

Odermann never doubted that Flynn would return.

“We knew right away she would be back and better than ever,” said Odermann, who has been teammates with Flynn since they were in eighth grade on the same club team. “I think that is definitely the case. She is way better now. Her left foot, and with her crossing, she is way more confident. She doesn’t take anything for granted knowing anything could happen tomorrow.”

Flynn’s hard-nosed play rubs off on her teammates.

“We missed her tenacity and incredible work ethic,” said senior captain Caroline Gray. “She is always willing to take on players one vs. one and just has a relentless ability to never give up. She makes other teams dread going against her. She gives us that extra bite in our game. She just bring an extra bit of energy and strength to our team.”

Senior captain Samantha Areman said she missed her out there last season.

“She is a one-of-a-kind competitor who works harder than anyone I know,” Areman said.

Being a part of the Huskers has provided stability for Flynn, who was born in Tennessee and also has lived in Illinois, Minne-



Caroline Flynn wears a knee brace to protect her reconstructed left knee that knocked her out last year.

DARREN IVY/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

sota and Nebraska.

Flynn said she attended five different schools in elementary, middle and high school due in large part to her parents moving around for different positions with State Farm Insurance.

"My dad is not Jake from State Farm, but he does wear khakis," Caroline joked. "My mom is a vice president of operations with State Farm."

Following her sophomore year at Lincoln Southwest in which she had verbally committed to play for the Huskers, her family moved to Illinois. Flynn attended and played soccer her junior year at Normal (Ill.) Community High School.

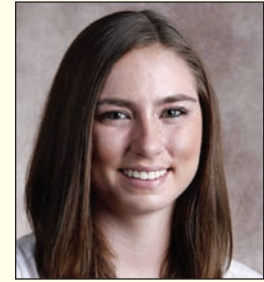
Her parents moved again at the end of that year to Seattle, Washington, but Flynn opted to return to Lincoln Southwest and lived with her best friend's family for six months before graduating early and enrolling at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln so she could go through spring soccer.

"Lincoln is definitely home for me," said Flynn, whose parents now live in Texas. "Playing for the Huskers is something I had always aspired to do as a little girl. Now that I am here and living that dream, I know I could not be any happier with the decision I made in choosing Nebraska."

"There's just no better feeling that training and playing in an environment that has been comfortable to me for so many years. I am now playing on the same field that I once sat in the bleachers at as a fan and dreamed of playing on some day. Going from experiencing the game on the sideline to actually playing on the field is one of the greatest feelings in the world."

10 questions

with Kelly Schatz
Sophomore Goalkeeper



1 What did you learn from being behind Emma Stevens last season?

KS: I learned a lot from Emma last year. She taught me mostly tactics things, but not just that. She taught me how certain players react to yelling, how certain players react to encouragement. She taught me everything. It was awesome learning under her for a year.

3 Do you feel like you are a leader as the goalie?

KS: You really have no choice but to step up. If you are having a bad day, everyone knows. If you are having a good day, everyone knows. Whether you like it or not, you have to be a leader. It's more of a leading on the field type of thing.

4 How much pressure is there on the goalkeeper as the last line of defense?

KS: You feel pressure, but with Jaylyn Odermann as my center defender, we more share it. I don't feel like it's all on me. It's more me and my defense.

5 Is there a pretty tight bond between the goalkeepers because you guys are in the same unique role?

KS: Yeah. We are all so busy, so the bond on the field is a lot stronger than the bond off the field, but we all know when each person is having a bad day. We know where each person should be, so we are able to push each other to become better players.

7 What's your strategy on stopping a penalty kick?

KS: Actually, I try not to think. I make more mistakes when I'm thinking about what they are doing. Once you get older, once you hit college, players don't give up as much of what they are doing on their kick with their hips and stuff. It's more of a reaction thing for me. I try not to think, just react and hope I get there."

8 Who is the funniest person on the team? Why?

KS: Jaylyn (Odermann), in my opinion, or Katie (Kraeutner) or Caroline (Flynn). Let's just put them all together. The way they interact is funny. Jaylyn will do things on the field that she doesn't realize that I'm behind her and can see her doing them. Like during a break, she'll juggle a ball or trip over a ball and think that no one saw. I'm just laughing my butt off because I did see it.

9 You are from Naperville, Ill., (which is just outside of Chicago). How does Lincoln compare to that?

KS: Naperville is technically smaller, but the biggest difference is that Lincoln feels kind of like an island because once you're out of Lincoln, there's nothing, where as with Naperville, once you're out of Naperville, you're gonna hit Aurora. It's this big area where the towns bleed into each other. Downtown Lincoln is bigger than downtown Naperville, but it feels smaller.

2 Are you vocal? Do you get on your teammates?

KS: Oh, yeah. They'll get on me, and I will get on them. It's a mutual thing where if one player is not having a good game, I can say 'alright, next time we have to do this better.' It's out of respect that we can figure that stuff out.

6 Is there a bit of a rivalry between the goalies and the field players?

KS: Whenever a field player says some snide comment about the goalkeepers not having to do this or that, we have three of us to stand up to them and say actually, we are doing this and this and this. It's more joking. Jaycie Johnson will joke about us never stopping her goals, so if we make a stop on her shot, we look at her like 'not today' type of a thing. It makes it fun.

10 What's the best food at the training table?

KS: Ohhh. I like quesadilla day, personally. It's just bomb. It's so good, and it's today, actually. It's a good day.

~As interviewed by Huskers Illustrated's Lanny Holstein

'Coming from nowhere'

Junior walk-on Alicia Ostrander earns respect of teammates

ALICIA OSTRANDER ISN'T THE FIRST WALK-ON TO BECOME A HUSKER VOLLEYBALL CAPTAIN, BUT TO BECOME A CAPTAIN AS A JUNIOR MAY SEEM A BIT UNUSUAL.

Ostrander was voted by the players as one of three co-captains along with sophomore libero Justine Wong-Orantes and senior setter Mary Pollmiller.

"She's a typical player of the past," Husker coach John Cook said. "I saw this with Dani Busboom when she went from setter to libero, the amount of respect they get from their teammates. Alicia has come from nowhere."

Nowhere in this case is Gordon, Nebraska, where Ostrander set multiple school records at Gordon-Rushville High School.

She could play basketball too and set school records in that sport as well, including marks for points in a game (43), rebounds in a game (30) and blocks in a game (15).

But, unlike just about every other top volleyball prospect, she didn't play club ball.

"Coming in as a freshman, I was a walk-on and I'd never had that club experience," Ostrander said. "I was really quiet and just kind of learning fast and on the sidelines watching my teammates

play."

She learned a lot. Cook said she played very well on the team's trip to China and Japan in June.

Ostrander also played well enough in fall practice to earn a starting spot when the Huskers opened the season Aug. 29 with a 3-1 loss to Florida State.

Ostrander led the Huskers with 18 kills in that match. She had five kills two days later in a 3-0 loss to Stanford.

It's been a long road to playing time for Ostrander.

She played in eight matches during her redshirt freshman season in 2012. Last year, she played in 12 matches including three starts and matched a ca-

reer high with five kills on five swings against Saint Mary's early in the season.

She had 19 kills and 16 blocks for the season. Ostrander played both right side and middle before moving to outside hitter for the Huskers.

"I am willing to play anything," Ostrander said. "That's what I've told coach Cook. I told him I could play any position he wants me to as long as it gives me an opportunity on the court."

That's another thing Cook likes about 6-foot-3 Ostrander. She is willing to do anything the coaches ask.

"She has proven herself," Cook said. "She doesn't complain. She appreciates every second she gets to be a part of this. They (her teammates) have seen her grow from



Story By Bob Hamar • Photo by Joe Mixan



Nebraska junior Alicia Ostrander walked on to the Husker volleyball team and now finds herself as one of the captains.

2014 Nebraska Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 23, 2014	Red-White Game	Devaney Center	White 3-1
AVCA Showcase			
Aug. 29, 2014	Florida State	Devaney Center	L, 3-1 (0-1)
Aug. 31, 2014	Stanford	Devaney Center	L, 3-0 (0-2)
Flyer-Raider Invite			
Sept. 5, 2014	Dayton	Dayton, Ohio	W, 3-0 (1-2)
Sept. 6, 2014	CSU-Bakersfield	Dayton, Ohio	W, 3-1 (2-2)
Sept. 6, 2014	Eastern Kentucky	Dayton, Ohio	W, 3-0 (3-2)
Ameritas Players Challenge			
Sept. 12, 2014	Denver	Devaney Center	TBA
Sept. 13, 2014	Colgate	Devaney Center	TBA
Sept. 17, 2014	Creighton	Devaney Center	TBA
Sept. 20, 2014	Texas	Devaney Center	TBA
Sept. 24, 2014	Iowa *	Devaney Center	TBA
Sept. 27, 2014	Iowa *	Iowa City, Iowa	TBA
Oct. 3, 2014	Penn State *	Devaney Center	TBA
Oct. 4, 2014	Ohio State *	Devaney Center	TBA
Oct. 10, 2014	Michigan State *	East Lansing, MI	TBA
Oct. 11, 2014	Michigan *	Ann Arbor, MI	TBA
Oct. 15, 2014	Northwestern *	Devaney Center	TBA
Oct. 18, 2014	Illinois *	Devaney Center	TBA
Oct. 22, 2014	Minnesota *	Minneapolis	TBA
Oct. 26, 2014	Wisconsin *	Madison, Wis.	TBA
Oct. 31, 2014	Rutgers *	Piscataway, N.J.	TBA
Nov. 1, 2014	Maryland *	College Park, Md.	TBA
Nov. 5, 2014	Purdue *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 8, 2014	Indiana *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 12, 2014	Michigan State *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 16, 2014	Maryland *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 19, 2014	Indiana *	Bloomington, Ind.	TBA
Nov. 22, 2014	Michigan *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 26, 2014	Illinois *	Champaign, Ill.	TBA
Nov. 29, 2014	Penn State *	State College	TBA
NCAA Tourney			
Dec. 4-6, 2014	TBD	College Sites	TBA
Dec. 13-14, 2014	TBD	Regional Sites	TBA
Dec. 18, 2014	TBD - Semifinals	Oklahoma City, OK	TBA
Dec. 20, 2014	Championship	Oklahoma City	6:35 p.m.

someone who couldn't even be in the drills to someone who is getting significant playing time. I think the level of respect goes with that."

That respect resonates with her teammates, and that's why she's a co-captain this year.

"I get on her all the time about being more vocal in the gym," Cook said. "But when she says something, it's like that old commercial – she talks, everybody listens, and she says some really great things."

Ostrander ended the first weekend of play in a battle with Kelsey Fien for a starting spot at outside hitter. Cook wasn't sure how that was going to play out in the long run, but said Ostrander does have a few things going for her.

"Alicia is a great blocker," Cook said. "She has a great arm. She hits the ball hard with a lot of power and she's learned the shots now as an outside hitter. She's just developed her repertoire of shots. She has a great tip. She can tool the block. She's learned all that. She has a lot of confidence."

Alicia Ostrander By the Numbers

18 Career-high kills vs. Florida State in 2014 season-opener.

19 Total number of kills during her entire 2013 sophomore season.

NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photos by Mitch Otto

DEVANEY IMPRESSES OPPONENTS

While Cook was disappointed in the on-court results the first weekend of the season, he was thrilled with the remodeled Devaney Center. The building named after the legendary football coach Bob Devaney drew rave reviews from fans and opponents alike.

"Everybody who comes here is blown away," Cook said. "I think it's such a special treat. Devaney is beautiful. It's a great volleyball venue. Even though we didn't put our best effort out there volleyball-wise, for the AVCA Showcase and the Big Ten Network, the Devaney presents a great presentation of women's volleyball."

The fans upheld their end of things too with over 8,000 in attendance for both days of the AVCA Showcase. Cook said the opponents noticed that as well.

"The coolest thing was in the middle of game three, our crowd was still into it and still supporting us," Cook said. "They kept upping the level. The Stanford people mentioned to me, they couldn't believe the crowd was so into it and still trying to help us win that match. That's why we have the best fans. That really meant a lot to me and our kids and our program that our fans were still in there trying even though we were getting throttled."

LOOKING FOR MORE

Cook went into the second week of the season looking for more from several players, including Kadie Rolfzen, a freshman All-American a year ago, and senior setter Mary Pollmiller. Rolfzen had a total of just six kills in the opening two matches. Cook said she has to learn how to play without Kelsey Robinson, an All-American a year ago for the Huskers who has completed her eligibility and is now playing for the U.S. national team.

"She's the second freshman All-American in the history of this program, but she also had a great player next to her in Kelsey," Cook said. "Now she's got another outside hitter next to her that's never played before so it's a big change and she has to adapt."

"Jordan Larson's freshman year she was 1-for-21 in the national championship match. She turned out to be pretty good. So that's one of the examples I'm using with Kadie. It's all

how you come back from this. It's how you respond."

Effort wasn't a problem for any of the Huskers, including Pollmiller. Cook said Pollmiller is actually trying too hard.

"Mary has to relax. She's trying to do too much right now and trying to carry this team as a setter," Cook said. "The analogy would be like a quarterback trying to be he running back, a thrower and then try to play defense and special teams."

"She's just trying to do everything right now which makes her be not a very good setter. We just need her to be a very good setter and keep us organized."

2007 ALL OVER AGAIN?

Cook is hoping, in a way, that history repeats itself. He remembers 2007 when his Husker team clobbered Penn State on the opening weekend of the season – much the same way as Stanford clobbered this year's Huskers.

That Penn State team rebounded to win the national championship.

"So obviously they didn't panic," Cook said. "But we were just playing so well early because we had such an experienced team. Stanford has all juniors and seniors and a great setter and they are humming right now. They're playing at a very high level. We're not there yet. We have a long way to go to get there."

WORLD CUP FEVER

Sophomore middle blocker Melanie Keil was going through the normal pre-season media routine during fall practice. She was talking about her role on the team, what she was hoping to do this season, things like that. But then a reporter asked her about Germany winning the World Cup in soccer, and she came alive.

"It was so good. I'm so excited. It made my whole year," said Keil, who is a native of Berlin. "I was pumped. I knew we were going to win because it was the same opponent as the last time we won, and we won 1-0. I was totally confident."

Keil didn't get to see much of the World Cup because the Huskers were in Japan at the time. They did return to the states in time for Germany's win over Argentina in the final.

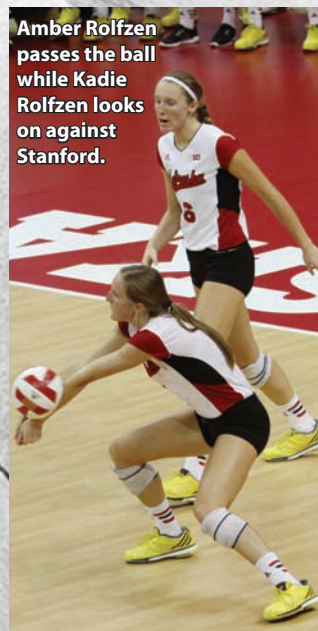
Kira Larson serves for NU against Stanford.

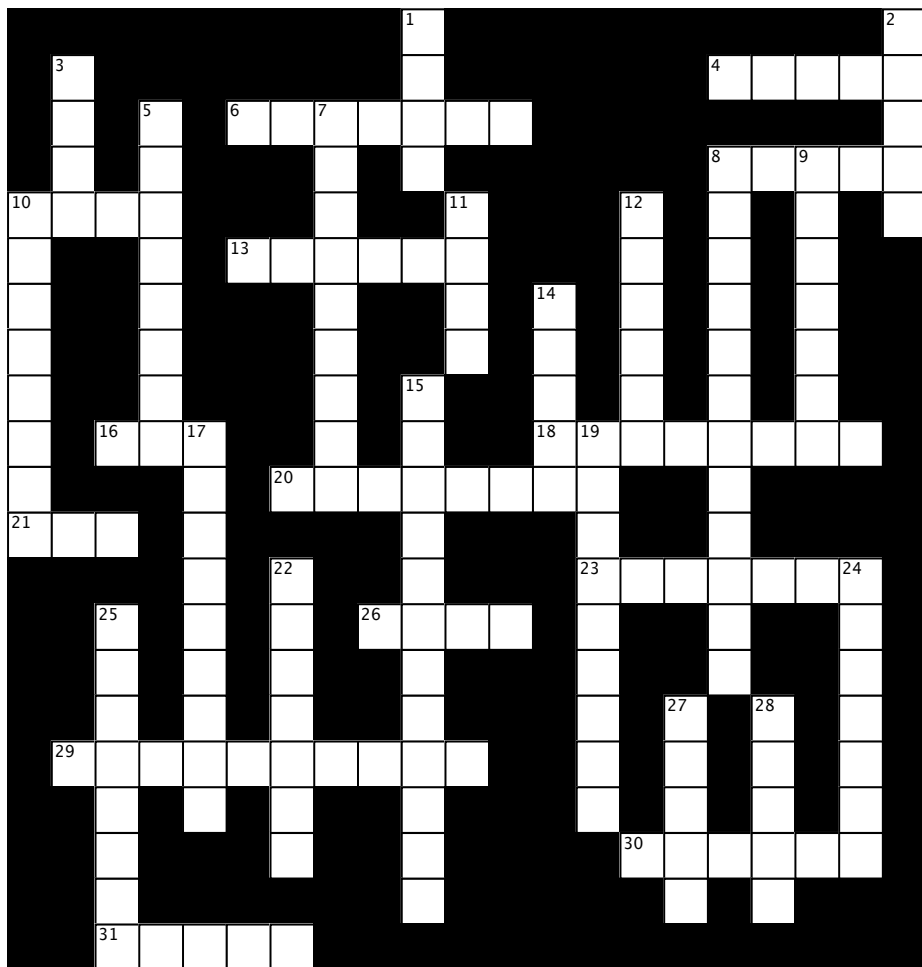


Cecilia Hall puts up a block against Stanford.



Amber Rolfzen passes the ball while Kadie Rolfzen looks on against Stanford.





14. Wears No. 23 (defense)

14. Wears No. 23 (defense)
6. 2016 non-conference opponent
8. Sept. 20 opponent
10. Became 3rd NU player to surpass 2,000 career receiving yards
13. Ex-Husker who is Big Ten Network color commentator
16. Defeated Fresno State in season-opener
18. Fresno State school color
20. Fresno State head coach
21. 2009 Lombardi Award winner
23. 1992 Outland Trophy winner
26. Quarterbacks coach
29. Leading receiver vs. Florida Atlantic
30. Defensive backs coach
31. Scored 2 touchdowns vs. Florida Atlantic

1. Kicker Drew Brown's older brother and former Husker

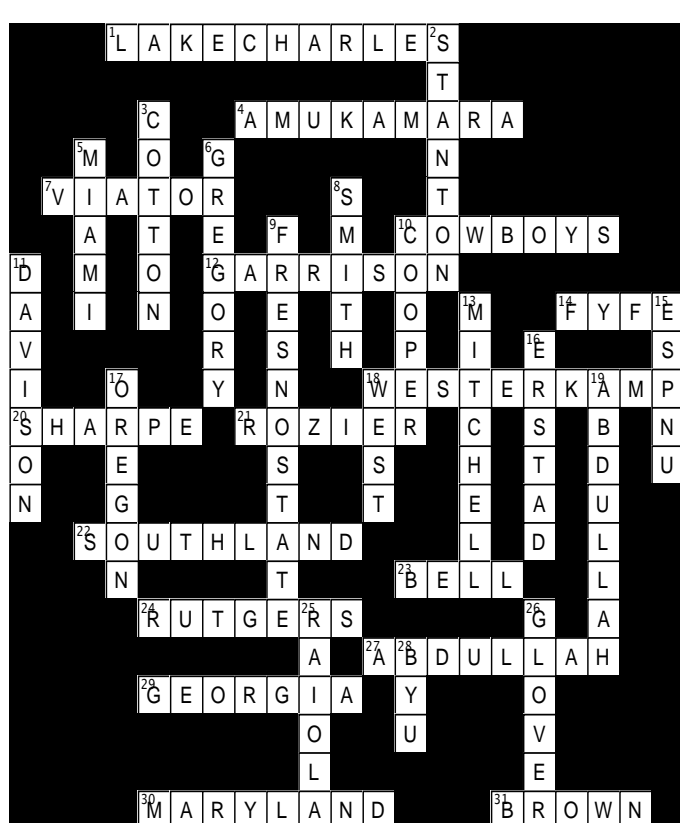
2. Wears No. 71 (offense)
3. Wears No. 17 (offense)
5. Homecoming opponent
7. Bo Pelini's alma mater
8. Fresno State's conference
9. Ameer Abdullah's home state
10. Fresno State nickname
11. Frank Solich's current school
12. Ex-Husker who is Miami Dolphins quarterback coach
14. Wears No. 78 (offense)
15. 2015 non-conference opponent
17. Network for NU-Fresno State telecast
19. Scored NU's first touchdown this season
22. Turner Gill's current school
24. Wears No. 5 (offense)
25. Leading tackler vs. Florida Atlantic
27. Wore retired No. 60
28. Wears No. 25 (defense)

Prognostications of Joe Husker



Huskers travel to California and
potty train the Bulldogs.

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